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# The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy



THE ROCKINGHAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

VOLUME XXXV

2010 ISSUE

## **The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy**

The Journal was published by the Rockingham County Historical Society between the years 1976 and 2010. On 31 December 2010 the Society went out of existence and on 1 January 2011 the new Rockingham County Historical Society Museum and Archives was formed. The Journals and Newsletters will now be published by the Program and Publicity Committees of the new organization.

For further information contact the Rockingham County Historical Society Museum and Archives, PO Box 84, Wentworth, NC 27375. Telephone number 336-394-4965.

### **A Personal Note**

As Editor of the Society Journal for the past 26 years and as the compiler of the Newsletters for several years, I would like to thank all who helped with our publications either by writing articles or mailing our publications. (Bob Carter)

### *About The Cover*

Lieutenant William Mills Nunnally was born 3 January 1835 and was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg on 1 July 1863. Nunnally was a member of Company K, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. He was the author of many of the letters published in this Journal. (Courtesy of David Alcorn)

# The Journal of Rockingham County History and Genealogy

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Lt. W. M. Nunnally (Confederate States of America)  
(1835-1863)

# THE NUNNALLY CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1861-1863

## Foreword and Family Sketches by Bob Carter

In April 1861, Abraham Lincoln called for the organization of 75,000 Union troops in response to seven southern states' secession from The United States. Thousands of young men across the south responded by joining local militia companies to help defend their beloved southland. Among these men was a young merchant named William Mills Nunnally of Rockingham County, North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> He lived in the Lawsonville Community, and when a company named the "Dixie Boys" was formed in the area, he enlisted on 22 May 1861,<sup>2</sup> and was soon elected sergeant. A few days later the unit was ordered to Weldon, North Carolina where it was re-organized into Company K of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of North Carolina State Troops.<sup>3</sup> Nunnally was quickly appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant of the company and the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment was sent by railroad to Virginia, where it was engaged in many of the famous battles that occurred in that state. While serving in Virginia, young Nunnally wrote nearly fifty letters to his relatives living in Rockingham County before being killed on the battlefield in the Battle of Gettysburg. These letters have been preserved by family members through the years, and are now in the hands of Berkley M. Alcorn. Berkley's great-grandmother Louisa Elizabeth Virginia Ann Nunnally Alcorn (further known as Virginia Ann Nunnally) was Lieutenant William M. Nunnally's sister.<sup>4</sup> Berkley has given the Rockingham County Historical Society permission to publish the letters in the Journal.

### Nunnally Family

Joseph Nunnally, Jr. was a native of Henrico County, Virginia. According to one genealogist, Joseph was born ca 1727 and died on 10 October 1777 in Burlington, New Jersey while serving in the Revolutionary Army.

Obadiah Nunnally, son of Joseph Nunnally, was born in Amelia County, Virginia in 1765.<sup>5</sup> He married Elizabeth Baldwin in 1784 in Amelia County, and established the family in Caswell County, North Carolina ca 1817.<sup>6</sup>

Just as his father did, Obadiah served in the Virginia Line in the Revolutionary War and took part in the Battles of Stoney Point, Monmouth and Brandywine. He served three years in the army and received Bounty Land warrants in the Military District of Ohio for his service. He also received land warrants for the army service of his father and his brother John Nunnally, both of whom died in Revolutionary War service.<sup>7</sup>

Sometime after the War, Obadiah moved to Nottaway County, Virginia from Amelia County. He resided there for a number of years; some of his children were noted to have been born there. He probably acquired a sizeable estate in the area, and as late as 1810 was still buying land in Nottaway.<sup>8</sup>

On 10 June 1817 Obadiah purchased 415 acres of land on the north side of Hogans Creek in Caswell County, North Carolina. On 9 December of the same year, he purchased an additional 206 acres of adjoining property.<sup>9</sup> His farm was located near what was then known as Linns Old Field. Some decades later the area became known as Pelham.<sup>10</sup>

Obadiah and his family lived in Caswell County for only a few years before he died on 22 February 1822.<sup>11</sup> Evidently in failing health, he wrote his Last Will and Testament on 10 January 1822. The Will was filed for probate at the April 1822 Term of Caswell Court. It mentions his wife Elizabeth (1761-1846) and children: Elizabeth N. Betts (1789-1847) who later married Henry Howard, William H. Nunnally (1792-1859), Martha N. Cobb and John Nunnally (1794-1840). The Will fails to mention Obadiah's oldest son James A. (b.1780) who evidently pre-deceased him, but it does mention Leander W. Nunnally, Obadiah's grandson who was the son of James A. Nunnally. The Will lists at least twenty slaves by name in Obadiah's Will; Obadiah would have been considered a well-to-do planter.<sup>12</sup> Only a few months after the will was probated, his widow Elizabeth signed over to her son William H. Nunnally all of her rights to the estate including land, slaves and live stock. She retained a lifetime right to reside on the property, and her son was to support her for the remainder of her life.<sup>13</sup>

William H. Nunnally became the most prominent member of the Nunnally family. He was married to Nancy Ann Smith Price in 1823 (1808-1875).<sup>14</sup> He was active in the Caswell County government, being a Justice from 1822 until his death in 1859.<sup>15</sup> He seems to have lived near Linn's Old Field (Pelham). The homestead has long since disappeared but some still remember the boxwood hedges that were near the house.<sup>16</sup> The current owner of the property is unknown.<sup>17</sup> William, his wife Nancy Ann Smith Price (just Ann Smith is engraved on her headstone), and two of his children are buried in a remote cemetery off of Nunnally road in Pelham, North Carolina in the same general area as William's homestead.<sup>18</sup> This cemetery was rediscovered in 2010, and all four headstones and footstones are fully upright and intact, with the inscriptions completely legible.

Obadiah's wife Elizabeth died on 2 November 1846 at age 83 years, and was buried beside her husband in the family cemetery. In 1957 members of the William Bethell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of Reidsville, NC visited the cemetery and recorded the data as public record.

People who remember the cemetery say it was on the west side of the Law Road about two miles east of US Highway 29. Several attempts to find the graves in recent years have failed. There are four sources that list the Obadiah Nunnally cemetery in this area, but the tombstones appear to be missing. <sup>19</sup> Also see note 101

### Leander Washington Nunnally

Obadiah's grandson Leander Nunnally was born 9 August 1812 probably in Nottaway County, Virginia.<sup>20</sup> His family moved to Caswell County ca 1817. No other information is available concerning his early life. In February 1834 he married Susan Stubblefield Mills of Rockingham County, North Carolina.<sup>21</sup> She was born on 10 October 1816, a daughter of Matthew Mills, Jr. and Sarah Stubblefield Mills.<sup>22</sup> Susan's grandparents were Nathan and Elizabeth Todd Stubblefield, and Mathew and Sarah Challis Mills.<sup>23</sup> Leander and Susan spent the early years of their married life in Caswell County. In June 1839 Leander purchased 130 acres of farmland in Caswell,<sup>24</sup> and according to the 1840 census, he and his family were residents of Caswell County. He was evidently interested in the education of his growing family for he was witness to a deed in 1838 for a school lot on Moon's Creek in Caswell. His uncles William H. and John Nunnally were on the school committee for this school.<sup>25</sup>

The Nunnallys were Wigs in the current political forum. In 1844, Leander was appointed as Captain of the local Caswell County militia unit in their district by Wig governor John M. Morehead. The company belonged to the 59<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the North Carolina State Militia.<sup>26</sup>

Susan Mills Nunnally's father Matthew Mills, Jr. was killed by a bolt of lightning at his home on "Lower" Hogan's Creek ca 1847.<sup>27</sup> He owned a total of 1,411 acres of land in Rockingham County on "Lower" Hogan's and Wolf Island Creeks as well as 17 slaves.<sup>28</sup> In December 1847, his land was divided between his heirs and his daughter Susan Nunnally received 162 acres in Rockingham County on the west side of Wolf Island Creek.<sup>29</sup> It was likely at this time that Susan and Leander moved their family from Caswell to settle on her inherited land in Rockingham County. They moved into or built a log home on Sagebrush Road off present day Worsham Mill Road.<sup>30</sup> Leander also purchased 76 acres of adjoining land on Wolf Island Creek in 1848.<sup>31</sup> Susan's mother died in 1854 and she may have inherited several slaves at that time.<sup>32</sup>

In late 1848 Leander was in failing health and on 1 January 1849 he wrote his will. He said he was in "feeble" health and he bequeathed his property to his wife Susan and instructed her to use part of the estate for "schooling" his children. He died on 12 January 1849 at age 36 years.<sup>33</sup> He was buried on the farm in what became the family cemetery.<sup>34</sup> His will was probated at the



Susan Stubblefield Mills Nunnally, mother of William M. Nunnally.

Courtesy Bruce Alcorn

February 1849 term of Rockingham County Court. An interesting provision of Leander's will stated that if Susan ever remarried there was to be an equal division of his estate between his heirs; she never remarried. The children of Leander and Susan were: William M. Nunnally {author of the Civil War letters}, James Fulks Nunnally (1837-1870s) who married Kate Williamson (1838-1916), Nannie N. Carter, Martha N. Pruitt, Sarah N. Scott, and Virginia A. Nunnally (later Alcorn) (1839-1921).<sup>35</sup>

In 1850 Susan is listed as the owner of 5 slaves, and ten years later she is not recorded as a slave owner. Perhaps some of the slaves had died. She had inherited one slave from her father's estate in 1847, and in 1860 Susan's two sons William and James are listed as owning one slave.<sup>36</sup>

Despite Susan's property being valued at \$5,000 in 1860 she and her family continued to live in a simple log home. In 1860 Susan is listed as the owner of a 244-acre farm of which 125 acres were improved land and 119 acres were unimproved land; the latter would have been woodland. Her livestock consisted of three mules and ten swine. Produce grown during the 1859 growing season included 250 bushels of corn and 8 bushels of rye; apparently no tobacco was grown on the farm that year.<sup>37</sup>

In 1869 a total of 500 pounds of tobacco was produced on the farm<sup>38</sup>, and by 1870 the value of Susan's farm had declined to \$3,000. That year she was listed as the owner of 53 acres of improved land (cleared for row crops), 376 acres of woodland (probably consisting of woodland and wooded pasture) and five acres of other land making a total of 434 acres. In 1871 Susan leased the farm to her daughter Nannie and husband John A. Carter. According to the rental agreement, Susan was to receive one-fourth of the crops raised on the land and was to pay \$5 per year for board with the Carters. This arrangement may have lasted for a number years as Susan and the Carters are listed in the same household in 1880.<sup>39</sup>

Susan Nunnally died on 16 January 1892 at age 75 years. She was buried beside her husband in the family cemetery after being widowed for 43 years.<sup>40</sup> Three years after Susan's death, Reidsville attorney Pinkney B. Johnson sold 160 acres of the Nunnally land that contained Susan's log home and the family cemetery to Ruffin merchants John A. Benton and Will H. Warriner.<sup>41</sup> In 1911 Benton purchased Warriner's interest in the land, and at his death in 1925 Benton willed the "Susan Nunnally tract" to his nephew Benton Stacy whose heirs owned the land for many years.<sup>42</sup>

### William M. Nunnally

Lieutenant William Mills Nunnally was born in Caswell County, North Carolina on 3 January 1835 to Leander W. and Susan Stubblefield Mills Nunnally.<sup>43</sup> In 1847 his mother Susan inherited land on Wolf Island Creek in Rockingham County, North Carolina from her father Matthew Mills, Jr's estate.<sup>44</sup> It was probably at this time that the family moved to the inherited land and built a log house there. Leander died at age 36 and in his Will he instructed his wife to educate their children. Susan followed her husband's wishes and William attended a school where he became proficient in writing and mathematics. His surviving letters show an excellent penmanship and diction: clear evidence of his education.<sup>45</sup>

Lawsonville, in Eastern Rockingham County<sup>46</sup>, was a crossroad settlement where several important roads merged and a natural site for an enterprising merchant to set up shop. In 1817 John Lawson opened a store and soon secured a post office that he named Lawson's Store.<sup>47</sup> He operated the store and post office until 1832, at which time he turned the business over to Robert W.

(“Bobbie”) Lawson who was either his son or brother.<sup>48</sup> Evidently William Nunnally was not interested in an agricultural career, and by age 24 had become a partner in Lawson’s Store. Hugh L. Guerrant, whose family owned a farm near the Nunnally home place on Wolf Island Creek<sup>49</sup>, was a second owner in the country store. Nunnally and Guerrant were both distant cousins of Bobbie’s wife through the Stubblefield family.<sup>50</sup>

Bobbie Lawson continued operating the store and served as post master of Lawson’s from 1832-1837 and 1841-1852. Hugh served as post master of Lawsonville from 1855-1857 and 1858-1861.<sup>51</sup> In 1848, the name of the post office was changed to Lawsonville.<sup>52</sup> Bobbie Lawson (1792-1871) married Nancy Bethell Brown (1790-1852), the widowed daughter of Revolutionary War Militia Captain William Bethell.<sup>53</sup> The Lawsons had no children, which is perhaps the reason Bobbie took in two partners in his mercantile business at Lawsonville. In 1860, William Nunnally and Hugh L. Guerrant are listed as merchants in business with Bobbie Lawson.



Powderhorn used by William M. Nunnally before the Civil War.

Courtesy David Alcorn

By that year both young men had accumulated personal property of some value. William was listed with property worth \$1,800 that may have included a slave that he owned with his brother. Hugh Guerrant’s personal property was valued at \$2,500.<sup>54</sup>

After the fall of Fort Sumter in Charleston, local companies of militia were organized across the south to defend the homeland. The company formed at Lawsonville on 22 May 1861 was given the name “the Dixie Boys.” The company was raised by Dr. Giles Pinkney Bailey, a local planter, who was elected Captain of the company.<sup>55</sup> One of the men who served under Captain Bailey made the following comment about Bailey: “[he was] one of the most sweet-spirited, polished, gentle and loveable men I ever knew...”<sup>56</sup> Other men who served under Captain Bailey were: Lieutenants George W. Anderson, Robert F. McCollum, John H. Nunnally and William M. Nunnally. The company was ordered to proceed to Weldon, NC and be called Company K, 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of North Carolina State Troops. Captain Bailey and Company marched from Lawsonville on foot to Company Shops [now Burlington] in Alamance County. From here they took the train to Raleigh, NC, then to

Weldon, NC, and finally into Virginia.

John W. Faucette later wrote an account of Captain Bailey's troops marching through Alamance. He said "Captain Bailey from Rockingham County with his company of volunteers passed through Alamance County on their way to Company Shops, to go in camp. They took dinner [lunch] at Dr. Jordan's. Father with us boys was at work some distance from the road that they would pass. So he let us go to the road to see the soldiers. Here they came, beating the drum and hollering. A man by the name of Jack Yokley was the drummer. One of them said that he was going after old Abe Lincoln's skull to make his mother a soap gourd. Not so, for in a short time he was brought back dead—killed." And he was one of many who met the same fate.<sup>57</sup>

Other officers of the 13<sup>th</sup> were Alfred M. Scales, Colonel (of Rockingham County) and E. B. Withers, Lieutenant-Colonel (of Caswell County).<sup>58</sup>

Captain Pink and the 13<sup>th</sup> soon saw action at the Battle of Williamsburg, and "... [Captain Bailey] gallantly led his company and in the charge he was shot and stabbed in a hand to hand fighting." He was seriously wounded and lay in the lap of a tree for a day and night. He was found, captured, and sent to a hospital. He was later transferred to Fort Delaware where he remained until 5 August 1862 when he was released. By reason of his wounds, he resigned from the Confederate Army on 15 October 1862 and returned home to Lawsonville where he practiced medicine until his death in 1881.<sup>59</sup>

Captain Bailey's replacement in leading Company K was Robert L. Watt, but was not in good health and died of pneumonia just a few months later on 15 January 1863. He was replaced by Hugh L. Guerrant on the day of Captain Watt's death. Hugh Guerrant remained Captain of Company K until he was paroled at Appomattox Court House on 9 April 1865.<sup>60</sup> He was the cousin of Lieutenant William M. Nunnally, and his former business partner in Bobbie Lawson's store in Lawsonville.

Following the War he returned to Rockingham where he farmed for a few years before moving to Danville, Virginia to become a businessman. He died there on 2 April 1899.<sup>61</sup>

Another officer in Company K was John Hudnall Nunnally (1830-1895) a first cousin of William M. Nunnally. John, a farmer, enlisted at age 30 and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 22 May 1861. He resigned his commission on 9 July 1861 for unknown reasons. He was replaced by William M. Nunnally.<sup>62</sup>

Taylor L. Rawley (1841-1927), a neighbor and kinsman of the Nunnallys, was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of Company K on or about 25 November 1863. He

survived The War and was paroled at Appomattox Court House on 9 April 1865.<sup>63</sup>

Another officer in Company K of the 13<sup>th</sup> was John Wyatt Guerrant, a brother of Captain Hugh L. Guerrant. John enlisted in Company K on 3 July 1861 at age 19. On 13 December 1862 he was promoted to Corporal and was detailed as Commissary Sergeant of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment on 1 August 1863. He later transferred to the Field and Staff of the 13<sup>th</sup>. He was paroled at Appomattox on 9 April 1865.<sup>64</sup> He returned to Rockingham County where he operated a store first in Oregon [Hill], and then in Ruffin. In 1880 he moved to Danville, VA where he followed a business career. He died in 1917.<sup>65</sup> Several years before his death he wrote multiple articles about his Confederate Army experiences.<sup>66</sup>

William Mills Nunnally was 26 years old when he enlisted at Lawsonville in “the Dixie Boys” Company on 22 May 1861. The Company was reorganized as Company K of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment. William was mustered in as 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant and on 13 July 1861 he was elected 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant of the Company. On 8 November 1862 he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He was quickly promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on 15 January 1863.<sup>67</sup>

Lieutenant Nunnally’s Company was in the following battles: Yorktown Siege, April-May 1862; Williamsburg, 5 May 1862; Seven Day Battle, June-July 1862; Gainesville, June 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1862; South Mountain, September 1862; Antietam, September 1862; Fredricksburg, December 1862; Chancellorsville, May 1863; and Gettysburg, July 1863.<sup>68</sup>

It was at the Battle of Gettysburg that Lieutenant William M. Nunnally met his final fate. During a charge he was struck in the head by a grape shot and killed instantly.<sup>69</sup> Two weeks later his cousin and Captain, Hugh L. Guerrant wrote a letter to William’s mother, Susan, informing her of his death. He wrote: “It is my painful duty to inform you that your son, Lieutenant W. M. Nunnally was killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on the 1<sup>st</sup> July [.] He was struck in the temple by a grape shot [that] went through his head killing him instantly[.] He was buried on the battlefield [.] We had no means of sending the mail earlier...”<sup>70</sup>

Captain Guerrant also wrote a short obituary of Lieutenant Nunnally, a copy of which has been preserved by members of the Alcorn family. Below is the obituary:<sup>71</sup>

Lieut. Wm. M. Nunnally of Co. K 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment N. C. Troops  
was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, Penn. Jul 1, 1863.

Lieut. Nunnally was among the first to respond to his country’s call and upon many a hard fought field he was evinced his

unquavering devotion to Southern Rights, and his stern determination to resist oppression to the last extremity.

He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and during his connection with the Regiment, he exhibited the characteristics of the true gentlemen, the gallant soldier, and devoted christian. A widowed mother, four sisters and one brother are left to mourn his loss.

Liet. Nunnally was born in Caswell County, NC but for some years past, his mother with her family has resided in Rockingham County, N.C. Though he left in the midst of the fight in a strange land with no requiem save the roar of the cannon and the battle of musketry, we have every reason to believe that his soul resposes quietly at the right hand of the most High.

Hugh L. Guerrant  
Capt Co. K. 13<sup>th</sup> N.C.T.

Following Lieutenant Nunnally's death the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment was engaged in many other battles. The well known battles included: Bristoe Campaign, October-December 1863; the Wilderness, May 1864; Spotsylvania Court House, May 1864; Cold Harbor, June 1864; Petersburg, June 1864-April 1865; and Appomattox Court House, April 1865, in addition to a number of lesser known battles. Many members of the 13<sup>th</sup> did not live to see the surrender in April 1865.<sup>72</sup>

Any person wanting additional information on the activities of Company K of the 13<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Regiment is encouraged to see the following books: W. J. Jordan, Jr. (ed.) North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865, A Roster, Vol. 5, Raleigh, N. C., 1975, pp. 275-283, 375, 376 and Walter Clack (ed.). Histories of the Several Regiments And Battalions From North Carolina In The Great War, 1801-1865, Raleigh, N. C. 1901, pp. 663-687, 689-699 and 702-703. Articles concerning the history of the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment appear in the Rockingham County Historical Society newsletters on the following dates: July 1994; January 1995; October 1998; October 2002; and June 2005.

While Lieutenant William M. Nunnally lies on the distant Battlefield of Gettysburg, he has a memorial tombstone in Rockingham County. How this stone was erected is an interesting story, and is as follows.

In 1953, the Rockingham County Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy #586 of Reidsville was about to disband due to inactivity and dwindling participation. The chapter had a good sum of money and they decided that rather than giving the money to the North Carolina State Organization of

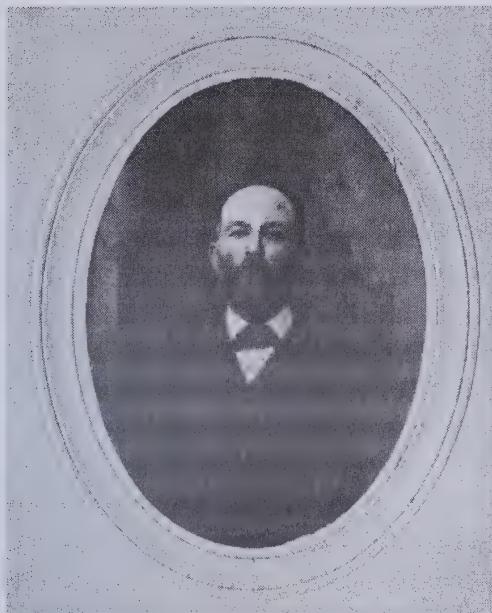
United Daughters of the Confederacy, they would use the money to purchase a large cemetery plot in Greenview Cemetery in Reidsville as the site for a second Confederate Monument. The first monument in Rockingham County was dedicated in Reidsville in 1910 with much fanfare. In 1956, an impressive monument was erected in Greenview Cemetery and both monuments were given to the United Daughters of the Confederacy State Organization in Raleigh.<sup>73</sup> In the year 2000, members of the Pvt. Lorenzo Dow Williams Chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp 1456, Reidsville and its sister organization the Rockingham County United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter #586 (reactivated in 1990), became interested in erecting military tombstones for soldiers killed in Confederate service who had no marked graves. Under the leadership of Commander Rodney Williams of Camp 1456, tombstones were ordered and ten markers were erected on the east side of the 1956 monument in Greenview Cemetery. The markers were dedicated in May 2000. One of the markers was in memory of Lieutenant William M. Nunnally. A few years later a second row of memorial stones were erected on the west side of the 1956 marker. A total of twenty markers were erected during this project.<sup>74</sup>

### The Alcorns

Since the Alcorns were descendants of the Nunnallys and continued to reside on a part of the Nunnally land it seems appropriate to relate the history of the family. The family also preserved the civil war letters written by Lieutenant William M. Nunnally. Many of the letters were written by William to his sister Virginia Nunnally who married Francis M. Alcorn Sr. Other relics saved by the Alcorns included Lieutenant Nunnally's powder horn and his Confederate coat. Unfortunately the coat was burned by a family member in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>75</sup>

Francis Alcorn, Sr. came into the community as a millwright and was probably employed in either rebuilding or repairing the old Stubblefield-Rawley gristmill on the nearby Wolf Island Creek.<sup>76</sup> It appears that Francis boarded with the Nunnally family in 1869 since a record shows that he farmed part of the Nunnally land in the crop year 1869-1870. That year he raised 10 bushels of wheat, 70 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of oats and 300 pounds of tobacco on the farm.<sup>77</sup> The couple fell in love and were married at the home of Virginia's cousin L. L. Nunnally on 29 December 1869.<sup>78</sup> Virginia's mother Susan deeded a tract of 34 acres of land to the couple, and several years later deeded them an additional 34 acres of land.<sup>79</sup> Francis and Virginia had accumulated a farm totaling 171 acres by 1886.<sup>80</sup>

Francis had an interesting background. He was born in Rockingham County on 5 December 1842, a son of Robert G. and Mary P. Alcorn.<sup>81</sup> His grandfather was John Alcorn, Sr. a native of Ireland. John was born ca 1768 and immigrated to America when he was about 22 years of age.<sup>82</sup> He settled in Guilford County,



Francis M. Alcorn, Sr.  
Confederate veteran, farmer and Brother-  
in-Law of William M. Nunnally.  
Courtesy Bruce Alcorn



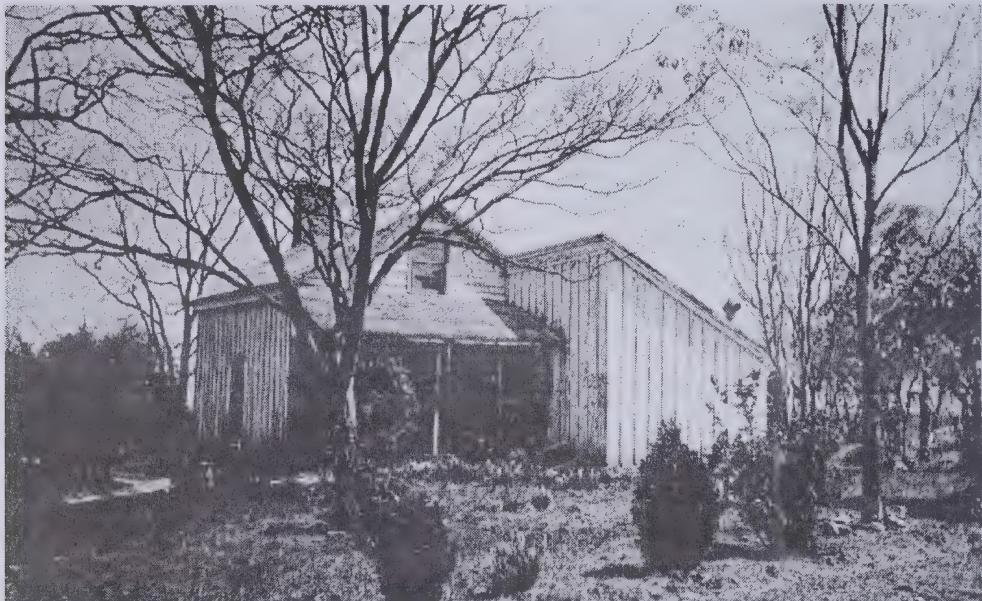
Virginia Nunnally Alcorn  
sister of William M. Nunnally and  
wife of Francis M. Alcorn, Sr.  
Courtesy Bruce Alcorn

North Carolina where he received a 100 acre land grant on Great Alamance Creek in 1787.<sup>83</sup> Three years later John sold the land in 1790 and in 1798 he purchased two tracts of land in northern Guilford County on the waters of Kennedy (Canady) Creek. In 1821 he sold this property and sometime later moved his family to Rockingham County.<sup>84</sup> In 1834 his son Templin (a furniture maker) purchased land in the present Sandy Cross area. In antebellum days the Alcorn's spring, near the Alcorn home, became a well known landmark and is often mentioned in road orders of those times. John Alcorn, Sr. died in Rockingham on 24 November 1851 at an advanced age.<sup>85</sup> His burial place is unknown.

Members of the Alcorn family purchased land in various places in Rockingham but by 1870 John's son Robert had moved to Stokes County where he still was residing in 1880.<sup>86</sup> He probably died in that area within a few years.

At the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, the Alcorns were still residents of Rockingham County. Francis Marion (Sr.) enlisted at age 19 on 22 February 1862 in Company E, 45 Regiment of the NC State troops.<sup>87</sup> His older brother Andrew also enlisted in the same county at age 22 on 3 May 1862 and was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg on 1 July 1863, the same day that Francis' not yet brother in law (Virginia's brother) William M. Nunnally was killed.<sup>88</sup> Francis

survived the War and walked back to Rockingham County, North Carolina from Appomattox, Virginia after the surrender on 9 April 1865. Family folklore says Francis' future wife Virginia provided assistance (probably food) to Confederate soldiers at the train station (probably Ruffin Depot), but it is not clear when that assistance occurred. It was likely at the end of the War as the soldiers returned home from Appomattox.<sup>89</sup> Francis took great pride in his Confederate service and attended reunions with his fellow soldiers in his later years.<sup>90</sup>



Home of Francis M. Alcorn, Sr. and Virginia Nunnally Alcorn. The house still stands off Alcorn Loop two miles west of Ruffin, North Carolina.

Courtesy of Bruce Alcorn

Both Francis and Virginia joined the Methodist Church in Ruffin. She joined in 1881 and was a consistent member until her death. It is unknown when Francis joined, but it was before 1892 when he served as a Steward in the church.<sup>91</sup>

Francis Sr. and Virginia had two sons, Francis M. Alcorn, Jr. (1875-1961), also known as Frank, and William Andrew Alcorn (1882-1960). Frank Alcorn Jr. married Bessie Fitzgerald (1880-1945) in December 1898 and they raised a family of 11 children on the family farm in Ruffin, North Carolina.<sup>92</sup> William A. married Eva C. Drewey in 1911 and they had five children. This family resided in Norfolk, Virginia and later moved to Roanoke, VA.

On 3 March 1921 Virginia Nunnally Alcorn died of a heart attack at 81 years of age. Her funeral was conducted by her pastor Reverend Henry F. Starr and she was buried in the Ruffin Community Cemetery.<sup>93</sup>

By 1923 Francis M. Alcorn, Sr. decided it was time to make some provisions covering his 295 acres of land. On 22 March of that year he deeded 246 acres of the farm to his son William A. This part of the farm lay north of a branch and south of the Susan Nunnally tract then owned by John A. Benton.<sup>94</sup> In July 1937 William sold the land that his father had deeded to him in 1923 to Bettie Cole Stacy, the wife of Benton Stacy, who had inherited the Susan Nunnally tract.<sup>95</sup>

On 22 March 1923, Francis Alcorn Sr. sold to his other son Frank, Jr. the remaining 148 acres of the Alcorn farm.<sup>96</sup> Frank and Bessie had lived with their 11 children in a log house on the land that their father had deeded to his brother William. About this time, Frank built a large two-story frame house among his 148 acres of the farm. He moved his large family into the new house that still stands at the top of the hill on Alcorn Loop.<sup>97</sup>

On 17 February 1926 Francis M. Alcorn, Sr. died of a heart attack at age 83. He was buried in his Confederate uniform beside his wife in the Ruffin Cemetery. The old log house where they resided still stands on the north side of Alcorn Loop off Worsham Mill Road.<sup>98</sup>

Frank and Bessie's youngest son Numa Harold Alcorn (1917-1992) followed the career of tobacco farmer on the old Alcorn farm.<sup>99</sup> For years he also leased and farmed the Susan Nunnally tract of land from the Stacy heirs. Harold married Mary L. Howerton in 1941 and they raised a family of five sons and 2 daughters on the family farm. Their youngest son is Berkley M. Alcorn who allowed the Society to publish the Nunnally letters.<sup>100</sup>

### Acknowledgments

The Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to thank Berkley M. Alcorn and his wife Alythia for making the Nunnally letters available for publication. Berkley and Alythia have spent countless hours transcribing the letters. Berkley has a special interest in the letters since many of them were written to his great-grandmother Virginia Ann Nunnally Alcorn by her brother Lieutenant William M. Nunnally.

Over the years the letters were divided among the Alcorn family, and Berkley has collected the letters from various relatives. A large portion was donated to him by his cousin Francis Marion Alcorn of Lynchburg, Virginia. It appears that some letters are missing, as evidenced by significant gaps in dates recorded on the letters. It is interesting to note that a letter written by William M. Nunnally addressed to his brother was found in a collection of letters donated to Cornell University, the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. It is unclear how this letter became part of this collection, as much of the remainder of the

collection consists of Union letters, but it does provide proof that correspondence did not always arrive at its intended destination. The Society would also like to thank Danna Alcorn Bauer of New Jersey for sharing her extensive research collection on the Nunnally family for use in this article.

Since Berkley Alcorn has the original Nunnally letters, he wishes to retain the copyright to the material and anyone wishing to reprint the letters will need to secure permission from him before doing so.

(Bob Carter, Chairman of Publications)

### Notes

1. U. S. Federal Census for Rockingham County, 1860.
2. W. T. Jordan, Jr. (ed.) N. C. Troops 1861-1865 A Roster, N. C. State Archives, Raleigh, NC, 1975, Vol. V, p. 375, 376, hereinafter cited as Jordan, N. C. Troops.
3. Ibid.
4. Danna Alcorn Bauer, "Register Report for Obadiah Nunnally" pp 4, 12.
5. See note 4, page 1.
6. No record for Obadiah Nunnally has been located in Caswell County before he purchased land in 1817. He is not listed in the 1810 census for Caswell County.
7. "Ansearchin News," The Tennessee Genealogical Magazine, fall 1986, page 116, Revolutionary War pension application by Elizabeth Nunnally in 1846 for the service of Obadiah Nunnally. Mentions oldest son as being James Nunnally born ca. 1786. Also see "Nunnally Genealogy" by Joseph Adams Shortal, Hampton, Virginia, page 10.
8. Nottoway Deed Book 4, page 46. In this deed Obadiah of Nottaway County, VA buys 64 acres of land in Nottaway from Thomas W. Bacon.
9. Caswell County, N. C. Deeds Book S, pp. 202, 232; Book V, pp. 109, 231.
10. The Greensboro Patriot, 9-24-1863. Article about the Piedmont Railroad stating that the first depot out of Danville will be at "Len's Old Field" and will be named Pelham in honor of Major John Pelham (1838-1863). The name Linns Old Fields appears in Caswell County records as early as 1805.
11. North Carolina Cemeteries & Bible Records, published by William Bethel Chapter, DAR, in 1957. Members of the Chapter visited the Obadiah Nunnally Cemetery and recorded information on the tombstones. Copy of book in the Reidsville Public Library.
12. Berkley Alcorn has Obadiah's will. Some dates are from DAR papers of Helen Diane Foster #556902 for membership in DAR. Other dates from A History of Four Jackson Purchase Families, compiled by Mary M. Beadles, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1978, pp. 273, 274. Nunnally Family Genealogy Form on GenForm.Genealogy.com. "Register Report for

Obadiah Nunnally," by Danna Alcorn Bauer. Caswell County Deed Book Y, page 231.

13. Caswell County Deed Book Y, page 231.
14. Caswell County Marriage Records.
15. Caswell County court minutes. William H. Nunnally tombstone in family cemetery near Pelham.
16. Conversation with Thomas Daily and Louise Fitzgerald in the 1990s by Bob Carter.
17. See the 1957 DAR Report of the Obadiah Nunnally tombstones. See notes 11 and 17. In the 1990s Thomas Daily Fitzgerald and Bob Carter looked for the cemetery but were unable to find it. Thomas Daily had visited the cemetery several times over the years.
18. In the spring of 2010 Berkley Alcorn, wife Alythia Alcorn and Bob Carter visited the W. H. Nunnally Cemetery.
19. See note no. 17. Also see note no. 101.
20. From Leander's tombstone and Bible records.
21. Rockingham County Marriage Records.
22. From Susan's tombstone and from Danna Alcorn Bauer, "Register Report for Obadiah Nunnally."
23. Stubblefield, Eight Generations of A Family in Rockingham & Caswell Counties, North Carolina & Callaway County, Kentucky, compiled by Gunn, Hoover, Miller and Patterson, private print 1999, pp. 75-79.
24. Caswell County Deed Book EE, page 263.
25. Caswell County Deed Book EE, page 29. The school deed is dated 1 June 1838 and was for one acre of land on Moon's Creek.
26. It is likely that the Nunnallys were wigs in politics because Gov. Morehead, being a wig, would have appointed men of that political party to militia officers. The muster ground for the area was at Linn's Old Field. Elections were held at the same place.
27. Folklore says that Matthew Mills, Jr. stood on the front porch of his home, shook his fist and cursed at the approaching thunderstorm just before he was struck and killed by lightening. Conversation with Mrs. Nettie Montgomery by Bob Carter in the 1980s. She said the Mills' home was off Long Branch Road near Lick Fork Primitive Baptist Church. The writer once visited the site which was marked by many prickly pear cacti. The house site was on the east side of the road.
28. Rockingham Deed Book 2dP, page 153. The 17 slaves were divided among the Mills' heir on 8 December 1847.
29. Rockingham Deed Book, 2dP, page 146. The Nunnallys received Lot 3 of the Division of land of Matthew Mills on 31 December, 1847. The tract contained 162 acres.
30. Family folklore in the Nunnally-Alcorn family. One of Berkley's brothers tore the log house down some years ago and hopes to rebuild the structure some time in the future. From Berkley Alcorn to Bob Carter in 2010.

31. Rockingham County Deeds; 2dP, p. 181. The deed, written 23 March 1848, is from John French to L. W. Nunnally for 76 acres on Wolf Island Creek.
32. Rockingham County Will Book C, page 200. Will of Sarah Mills probated November 1854.
33. Rockingham County Will Book C, page 90.
34. Berkley Alcorn has recently cleared the Nunnally Cemetery and reset the tombstone.
35. "Register Report for Obadiah Nunnally" by Danna Alcorn Bauer, pp, 4, 5.
36. The slave inhabitants of Rockingham County in the censuses of 1850 and 1860.
37. Rockingham County Agricultural Census taken for year ending 1 June 1860. Copy in NC State Archives, Raleigh, NC.
38. Rockingham County Agricultural Census taken for year ending June 1870. Copy in NC State Archives, Raleigh, NC.
39. Rockingham County Deed Book, 3dAp, 459. The lease is dated 2 October 1871. Also Rockingham County Census for 1880.
40. Tombstone of Susan Nunnally in the family cemetery on land now owned by M. P. Collins. The graves are passed the end of Sagebrush Road. A Nunnally descendant Berkley Alcorn has filed the cemetery with the NC Cemetery Survey Project in Raleigh.
41. Rockingham County Deed Book 102, p. 417. John A. Benton was born 23 April 1865 and died 13 November 1925. Will Warriner retired as a Ruffin merchant in 1919. See Rockingham County Historical Newsletter July 2004.
42. Rockingham County Deed Books: 173 p. 79, Book 308 p. 150; Rockingham County Will Book G, p. 260 (will of J. A. Benton), "*The Reidsville Review*," 1 November 1934, 2 May 1977.
43. Nunnally Family Bible Record and Danna Alcorn Bauer, "Register Report for Obadiah Nunnally," p.5.
44. Rockingham County Deed Book, 2dP, p.146. This record is a division of Matthew Mills' lands on Hogan and Wolf Island Creek dated 31 December 1847.
45. Rockingham County Will Book C, page 88.
46. The 1860 Rockingham County Census reports William M. Nunnally as a merchant living in the household of Bobbie Lawson, a merchant in Lawsonville.
47. Ibid.
48. Lieutenant William M. Nunnally's grandmother Sally Stubblefield Mills was a second cousin of Hugh L. Guerrant's mother Malinda Stubblefield Guerrant. See Stubblefield book by Drewey Wayne Gunn, Donald W. Hoover, Nancy T. Miller and Randall Patterson, 1999; copy in Rockingham Community College Library, Wentworth, NC. A legal kinship between Nunnally and Guerrant would be first cousins twice removed.
49. United States Postal Records for Rockingham County, NC.

50. Sketches and Genealogy of the Bailey-Craddock-Lawson Family, compiled by Betsy Lawson Willis and Martha B. Craddock, Alexandria, Virginia 1974, pp. 65-70. Since John Lawson, Sr. lived in Person and Caswell Counties, it seems likely that his son John Lawson, Jr. was the merchant and postmaster at Lawsonville. He is probably the same person who later became a merchant in Leaksville, NC.

51. Ibid.

52. See note 48.

53. See note 46.

54. See note 49. 54A. In February 1901 J. Alex Jones said that the company was named and formed in Reidsville. See Webster's Weekly 3 February 1901. John W. Guerrant said in *The Reidsville Review*, 30 March 1915 that the Dixie Boys were organized at Reidsville.

55. North Carolina Troops 1861-1865 A Roster; compiled by W. T. Jordan, Jr., Vol. V, Raleigh, NC Archives and History, 1975, p. 375. Dr. Giles Pinkney Bailey (1825-1881) was a son of Dr. Otway L. Bailey (1793-1831) and Sinea Bethel (1794-1865). His mother was a daughter of Captain William Bethel (1744-1804) and Nancy S. Stubblefield (c. 1755-1826). See note 48. See Stubblefield Book, p. 52, 61.

56. From *The Reidsville Review*, 30 March 1915, article by John W. Guerrant, Danville, Virginia, 29 March 1915. Reprinted in the Rockingham County Historical Society Newsletter, October 2002.

57. John W. Faucett (1848-1915) wrote the account in 1915 the same year he died. His address in 1915 was Altamahaw, NC. The article was reprinted in *The Reidsville Review* on 1 June 1966. Thanks to Robert Underwood, a Faucett descendent for a copy of the article.

58. See note 55.

59. *The Reidsville Review*, 30 March 1915. Tombstone of Dr. Bailey in Lick Fork Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. Col. E. B. Withers said in 1897 that other members of the Dixie Boys who were bayoneted were Monroe Robertson, Sam Ward, Banks Powell and others. He claimed this was the first battle where the bayonet was used. See Webster's Weekly 24 June 1910.

60. See note 55.

61. Hugh L. Guerrant is buried in Green Hill Cemetery, Danville, Virginia. See the Stubblefield Book by Gunn, Hoover, Miller and Patterson, 1999, Private Print, page 107.

62. Commissioned officers were allowed to resign during this time span. Compiled Confederate Records, National Archives, 13<sup>th</sup> N.C. Troops, record for J. H. Nunnally. Nunnally mustered into service 22 May 1861 into N.C. Troops 1 June 1861, elected Second Lieutenant 22 May 1861, resigned 9 July 1861 with no reason stated. His cousin W. M. Nunnally succeeded him.

63. Jordan, N. C. Troops Vol. 5 page 376. Rawley lived in Ruffin and

Reidsville and finally settled in Winston-Salem where he died in 1927.

64. John Wyatt Guerrant (1842-1917) was a son of Daniel and Malinda Stubblefield Guerrant.
65. Copy of J. W. Guerrant obituary in Historical Collections Room, James Library, Rockingham Community College, Wentworth, NC.
66. Copies of these newspaper articles were published in the Rockingham County Historical Society Newsletters in the following issues: #73, July 1994, page 5; #75, January 1995, page 10; #106, October 2002, page 7.
67. See note 55 and compiled Confederate Records in the National Archives, copy furnished by Berkley Alcorn on [balcorn.shutterfly.com](http://balcorn.shutterfly.com). Rodenbough (ed), The Heritage of Rockingham County, North Carolina, 1983, Hunter Publishing Company: Winston-Salem, 1983, page 27. "Rockingham County in the Civil War" by James R. Meador. Also see note 54-A about where the Dixie Boys were formed.
68. Web page of the 13<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Troops Company B, reenactment group, Charlotte, NC.
69. See note 67.
70. Nunnally Collection of Civil War letters, one dated 15 July 1863 from Captain H. L. Guerrant to Mrs. S. S. Nunnally informing her of her son's death on 1 July at Gettysburg. Captain Guerrant's letter was written from Winchester, VA.
71. Copy of Lieutenant William M. Nunnally obituary is in the Nunnally papers in possession of Berkley Alcorn.
72. See note 68.
73. Information furnished by Ms. Samyria King, Reidsville, NC, 2 January 2011.
74. Ibid. Ms. King, the president of the Rockingham Chapter #580 United Daughters of the Confederacy. Information 3 December 2010.
75. Webpage <http://www.findagrave.com>. Conversation with Berkley Alcorn, December 2010.
76. See 1870 Federal Census, Rockingham County, NC, Oregonville Township. Francis is listed as a mill right in this census. The Stubblefield-Rawley gristmill on Wolf Island Creek was built by 1790 and the mill remained in the hands of descendants until 1908 when the mill property was purchased by brothers William J. and James J. Worsham, Ruffin merchants. In 1914 William J. "Billie" Worsham purchased his brother's interest in the mill and his son Cecil Worsham continued to operate the business until the early 1970s. See "History of Worsham's Mill" by Robert W. Carter, Jr. in the Historical Collections Room, James Library, Rockingham Community College, Wentworth, NC.
77. Agriculture Census Oregonville Township, 1870.
78. Alcorn Family Bible and see note 75.
79. Rockingham County Deeds: Book 3dG, p. 410 and Book 4A, p. 407.
80. Charles Emerson's N. C. Tobacco Belt Directory, 1886. See the Journal of

Rockingham County History and Genealogy, 2006, p. 18.

81. F. M. Alcorn Tombstone, Ruffin Cemetery 1850 and 1860 Federal Census for Rockingham County, NC. John T. Dallas, Alcorn Family of Rockingham/Stokes County NC, not paged.
82. 1850 Federal Census for Rockingham County, NC. John Alcorn, Sr. obit in The Greensboro Patriot, 13 December 1851. Also see Rev. Samuel Rankin's History of Buffalo Presbyterian Church and Her People, page 86.
83. Guilford Deeds, Book 5, p. 45.
84. Guilford Deeds, Book 5, p. 196; Book 7, pp 65, 526; Book 15, p. 796. Rockingham Deeds Book 2dF, p. 206.
85. Rockingham Deeds, Book 2dF, p. 206. See road orders in Rockingham County court minutes 1860, 1861. See note 82.
86. Stokes County Federal Census 1870, 1880.
87. Jordan, NC Troops 1861-1865: A Roster, Vol. XI, p. 57.
88. Ibid.
89. Alcorn family tradition, Berkley M. Alcorn to Bob Carter 2 December 2010. Find a Grave memorial, <http://www.findagrave>.
90. Ibid.
91. *The Reidsville Review*, 11 March 1921, memorial article about Virginia A. Nunnally Alcorn. Michael Perdue, Ruffin's Methodist Heritage (1989), pp. 14, 73. *The Reidsville Review*, 19 February 1926.
92. Danna Alcorn Bauer, Register Report for Obadiah Nunnally Family, pp. 12, 15-20. Louise L. Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald Family Genealogy, Rockingham and Caswell Counties, North Carolina; 1995: Pelham, NC p. 7.
93. *The Reidsville Review*; 4 March 1921, 11 March 1921.
94. Rockingham Deeds, Book 243, p. 5. Also see Rockingham Deed Plat Book 3, p. 19. Survey of Alcorn Family recorded 23 April 1923.
95. Rockingham Deeds, Book 300, p. 440.
96. Rockingham Deeds, Book 241, p. 511. Also Rockingham Deeds, Book 243, p. 6, dated 18 July 1923 when F. M. Alcorn Sr. and F. M. Jr. sold William A. Alcorn their original 34 acres of land.
97. Alcorn family tradition from Berkley Alcorn, 5 December 2010.
98. *The Reidsville Review*, 19 February 1926. Alcorn tombstones in Ruffin Cemetery. Alcorn family tradition from Berkley Alcorn, 5 December 2010.
99. From: Find a Grave Memorial #26201158. Alcorn family tradition by Berkley Alcorn, 5 December 2010.
100. Ibid.
101. There are four sources that give the location of the Obediah Nunnally cemetery. One is a 1957 book by the William Bethel Chapter DAR that lists the cemetery as being two and a half miles east of US 29. Two records by J. Burch Blaylock indicate the cemetery is on Law Road. A map in the Caswell County Historical Museum also shows the cemetery as being on Law Road. See notes 17 and 19.

THE NUNNALLY CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1861-1863  
TRANSCRIBED BY ALYTHIA AND BERKLEY ALCORN

Camp Ruffin Va  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Brother

You will please send me the following articles by the first opportunity

My Trunk and key

Overcoat

Low quarterd shoes

2 pr yarn socks      silk moirantique

2 cravats    1 has my name on it and the other a nor \_\_

2 linnen hdkfs

2 linnen shirts and 4 collars

1 black silk vest

1 pr dove coloured cassimere gloves

razor strap and box

comb and brush

Whoever brings it can put their clothes in it and I can loan them any Valise to carry them back in. I am well this morning and hope this may find you enjoying the same give my respects to all I have no news to write you.

W M Nunnally

Notes from the transcriber:

"hdkfs" is short for handkerchiefs

valise - a small overnight case or small suitcase

silk moirantique - a type of fine fabric

cravat - a neckband; the forerunner of the modern necktie

Pagan Creek Battery  
Isle of Wight Co Va  
August 28<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Sister

I write this morning to give you what little news I have. Though news is scarce. Col Pender has left this Regiment and has been appointed Colonel in the Regular Army he will take charge of the late Col. Fisher's Regiment. before he left he had the Regiment marched out in line of battle and made quite an eloquent speech. while talking tears flowed freely from hundreds of the soldiers. He said he was sorry to leave us but he had tried to get us where he thought we could get in a fight but had failed and he did not want to remain here doing nothing, fighting was his trade and he wanted to be where he would be sure to get in a fight.

He also said that ours was the best regiment in The Southern Confederacy. That it was acknowledged to be so by all that had seen it and that he could say with the newspaper that it was the most gentlemanly set of men that he ever saw. Since he left the men look like some of their best friends had died. We will have to look out for some body else soon. Gen. Pemberton was here day before yesterday he is making arrangements to get all the Regiments under his command together to drill them, which is the third and fourth Regiments from N.C. and Col Poyers of This State and several Cavalry Companies.

We will leave here tomorrow or next day for Bens Church. The people about here have treated us so kind that I have become attached to the place and almost hate to leave. Though Bens Church is the nicest place for a camp in this portion of the State. I saw Porter French and several other of Slades Company a few days ago. They say they have a nice place for a camp and are enjoying good health now. Thought they have one man that will die soon I think if he is not already dead. His name is Halt. Our company is enjoying excellent health at this time. Several persons from Rockingham have gone back on a visit they are only allowed to stay from camp ten days which is quite a short time. Tell Uncle BH Carter to come on The mosquitoes are not so bad

now. Though you can see hundreds at one sight now. They have been firing cannon at Newport News in a hurry this morning which fairly shakes the earth around here. They may conclude to make an attack on us soon, but I think it doubtful:

August 29<sup>th</sup>

It is quite a rainey morning and we will have to put off leaving here until tomorrow. I went out to Mr Rob (?) Todds yesterday to dinner with several of the Milton Bl\_\_\_. He is quite wealthy and a very clever man he treated us to every thing that was good to eat and drink I also took supper at this fathers a few nights ago. who has a very pretty daughter and is one of the most intelligent ladies I ever met with. She was in camp yesterday evening and expected much sorrow at our leaving. We had several other ladies to see us but their stay was quite short. I have received the things you all sent me. You need not send anything without you send it by some person that is coming down here. GW Anderson was quite sick last night but is much better this morning and will be able to walk up to the camp if we leave today.

You must present my best compliment to the people around in the neighborhood and especially to the fair sex You must kip (kiss) all the pretty ones for me and the others if there be any for yourself.

If you hear of a fight near this place soon you need not be surprised the Yankees are making some strange moves. Something is in their heads not right. Though we dont know where the attack will be but it is thought now that it will be below here. I have no news this morning give my love to all the family and accept for yourself the prayers for your health and happinep (happiness) of from your Brother

WM Nunnally

Since writing the above Gen McGrandor has pitched his tents on the oposite bank of the River which makes it look like a beautiful snow bank instead of the tents of an army of 15.000 men when the sun broke out on them about an hour ago they looked beautiful. It is nine mile acrop

(across) The River. Imagine 150 acres or more of land covered with tents nine miles distant but in plain view it looks grand WMN

Bens Church Va  
Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1861

Mip (Miss) V. A. Nunnally  
Dear Sister

As I am at leisure to night I believe that I will give you what little news we have in camp. I am quite well and hope this will find you enjoying the same. The health of the regiment is excellent. We only drove about 15 men in the hospittle out of the whole regiment. I saw Capt. Slade to day he said that the regiment had about 375 on the sick list. He says we have the nicest camp he ever saw and have the best hospittle in the south. about 35 of his men are sick though you must say nothing about that as it may cause some uneasinep (uneasiness) in your neighborhood. I suppose you have heard that John Murphy was drowned. Capt Slade says he fell off the steamer and has not been seen or heard of since and suposes him drowned he had started home on a visit. They have lost 26 or 7 men out of that regiment while we have lost only 5 and our is the largest those fellows that have taken so much delight in trying to slander this regiment will wish they were in it before twelve months rolls around some of them now would give half their wages to be here our ears have been filled with the sound of cannon to day from the different batteries. practising at targets I suppose I believe the excitement about the attact on Norfolk has nearly subsided. infact the Yankees at Newport News are expecting an attact from us now as it is getting late and I have the tooth ache I must bid you good nigt.

Sept 24<sup>th</sup>  
I have no additional news to communicate. I expect that J W Justice of our company will start home tomorrow a good many are going home from the different companies all your acquaintences are well.

I hope to hear from you soon I expect to write to uncle

T.J. Mills today I will write again when I get some news so for the present I bid you adieu

W M Nunnally

*Notes from the transcriber:  
adieu is defined as farewell*

Pagan Creek Battery Va  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1861

Mr Jas F. Nunnally

Dear Brother

The letter you sent by Joseph Smith came to hand a few days since which found me quite well. Tell sister Virginia that I received the letters she sent in my trunk. I want you to send the other things I wrote for the first opportunity. also send my light boots you will have them mènded. you need not send the hat I wrote for.

I have no news of importance. I am very well and hope this may find you all the same J W and H L Guerrant, Gus Watkins T C Harville, G W Anderson and T W Hornbuckle are all quite well. We hope the next news we hear will be that North Carolina has cleared her coast of the Yankees.

Our regiment is itching to go there the 4<sup>th</sup> regiment has been ordered to hold itself in readinep (readiness) to start there in a moments warning also the Ellis light artillery which is near us. I guep (guess) we will not be ordered there as we hold a very important post here and in plain view of Newport News. we have been expecting an attack here but I think it doubtful about their attacting this place at all

We heard heavy fireing in the direction of Yorktown this morning and think quite likely they had a little fight then Gen. Wool has command at Newport News now and well will soon see which is the strongest in a fight. Wool or Cotton. Two of our company leave for home this evening Robt. Love and David S Paschal. Love lives near Thompsonville and Paschal near Lawsonville N H Gregory send you his respects The boys are ready to leave good bye

Wm M N

Dear Sister

As it has been some time since I wrote to you. I believe I will write a few lines to let you know what we are doing at present. The Milton Blues left here this morning to complete a breast work which was commenced by the Yanceyville Greys last week at Rag Island it will take them two or three days to complete the work we will throw up another above that point in a few days. we are preparing as fast as possible to prevent the Yankees from getting a foot hold on this side of the river some of the regiment witnessed (witnessed) a fight between two steamers last Friday (in front of them while throwing up the breast work) The fireing was heavy on both sides. The Yankees using shell and the south evers (?) solid shot. Our steamer was not hit the men on shore could see where every shell bursted they could not tell where our shots stuck or went as they were solid and the yankee vessel a good way off, after fireing several round the Yankees turned back as was chased back to Newport News by our steamer which they had come out to run off. The cannon was heard thirty miles and the fight was witneped (witnessed) from several of our batteries and by the Yankees at Newport News. I have no doubt but there was 15,000 men looking on all anxious for their own vessel to be conquerer. We expected an attact last week but have seen nothing in the last 5 or 6 days that looks like preparation for coming over here. They will attemp to land in the night I think though I think it very doubtful whither they attempt to come at all or not. if they do they will meet some of the best fighting stock in the Southern Confederacy I saw a man this morning from Manassas who has seen our army at and about there and he says this is the nicest and best looking set of men he has seen any where and that this regiment is an ornament to the South.

Since writing the above we have been informed that 5 regiments from Richmond have been sent down to be stationed somewhere near us to help us in case the Yankees should attempt to land on this side which those about Richmond that ought to know thinks will be the case soon though I will not believe it until I see them coming or hear

that they are defeated at Washington. Then they may attempt to go to Richmond this way. I believe this is decidedly the easiest way for than to get to Richmond now but at the same time think either way impossible or at least it would cost them the lives of 200,000 men to get there either way.

We had another death in our Regiment last night which makes four in all. he belonged to Capt. Settles Company, he came down from Stokes County and joined before any Company was made up in Stokes. his name is York his disease was Typhoid Fever. The whole Regiment has to attend burials. it is now dark and raining here and there we can hear singing with the exception of that all is still JW Guerrant is sitting by my side with that exception I am alone he came to bring a letter to send to James. F We are having a tolerable easy time now, we only have to drill twice a day. Now here comes GW Anderson and says Lieut. don't you think I am a fair specimen of human nature and pulling his moustache which he has died (black of course) all the while. I have just read the last four lines to John and George and John says what next he and George both grinning now George says simply tell um Bill that I'm coming up in Rockingham after a while and the people can see my moustache for themselves, now George takes off his cap and straightens up his roach that has a slight touch of hair dye also and now John says Bill give um a slight tech of my standin. and says read out what you write about Geore but say he did not want me to write it down. John Justice says Bill write something more that's funny for goodnep (goodness) sake. but says that he did not know that I was going to write it down or he would have said nothing now John says he will get afraid to talk if I am going to write it all down now he says I'm done. Now John sits and grins but is afraid to speak now here comes George again and wants to know what time it is. A darkie named Mat says he feels mighty bad and Hugh says spose you take a horn and George says he wishes his name was Mat if he was going to ask all the Mats to take a drink. John says I ought to send this now as I have been to so much trouble writing it and says it is giving George fits but taint hurting him.

I must now close as prayer meeting has commenced  
give my love to Ma and family and accept for yourself my  
best wishes for your health and hapinep (happiness) and  
may you make the blesed law of God your businep (business)  
and delight is the prayer of Your Brother

WM Nunnally

PS

All your acquaintinces are quite well  
write soon, I am quite well

W.M.N.

Notes from the transcriber:

- A *breastwork* is a fortification. The term is usually applied to temporary fortifications, often an earthwork thrown up to breast height to provide protection to defenders firing over it from a standing position.
- To "take a horn" is to take a drink of intoxicating liquor

Bens Church Va  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Sister

Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> just came to hand yesterday. it found me all right I received the two book and boots. They remained in Smithfield several days. I received the letters sent by M.C. Holderby and Cornelia Guerrant and answered them promptly. I have more leisure now than usual and have time to answer all correspondents and especially the ladies. I have several lady correspondents who give me the news of the different neighborhoods. I have no news to write you nothing having transpired since I wrote last. only there has been 5 more regiments sent to this section. one from S. Ca. stationed at Suffolk and the other along on the river I don't know what state they are from but think they are from Georgia and Alabama

I heard heavy cannon this evening in the direction of Yorktown but dont know what was the cause. The Yankees at Newport News are getting afraid that we are going to attact them soon but they are mistaken. We have not elected a Colonel yet but will make another effort tomorrow. I sent Mrs C.C. Thomas my likene (likeness) by Mr. Wright so did Hugh it was taken in full uniform I will have another taken for you in a few days I dont want any socks at present but will want the gloves. if nothing hapens I dont want any pants that you can make without you can make a No 1 article. If I get sick I will try and get home. The officers are allowed to go out to private houses where they are well cared for. Capt Settle lost another man this evening. he died with Typhoid fever. That seems to be quite fatal in this section especially in camp. All your acquaintences are well. if you see PR Wright he will give you all the news but you will hardly see him. give my love to all the family and all friends and accept for yourself my best wishes for your health and hapine (happiness) write often as I like to hear from you all as well as you do from me to hear the singing and praying that is going on now reminds me of the pleasant camp meetings you usually have in rockingham at this season  
good bye

W.M. Nunnally

PS

JW Guerrant is in here to night but is afraid to speak for hear that I will write it down he is looking well

WMN

Bens Church Va  
Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Sister

As Mr Jef. Walker will leave here in a few moments for Rockingham I believe I will write you a line to let you know that my health is good. We came up from Rag Island last Monday and have been busily engaged building houses for winter Maj Bethell arrived here last night but did not bring the articles you proposed to send to him. Col. Scales has

returned and assembled command of the Regiment Capt Ruffin has been appointed judge to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Dick. Dr. Scott staid with us last night. he has been sick in Richmond his company is stationed near Manassu. He looks quite feeble but is improving. I have received my hat. I have no news to communicate. I hope to hear from you soon yours \_\_\_\_ in haste

WM Nunnally

Rag Island  
Oct 15/61

Dear Brother

I am quite well this morning. I have but little news to write. I saw the Yankees from Newport News last Sunday go up the river about 3 miles above that place and burn down 4 very fine houses then returned to N.N. I expect to hear of some hard fighting on that side the river soon

Our force on this side is one regiment stronger than usual. The 1<sup>st</sup> S.C. Regiment is stationed at Suffolk. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> NC regiments are stationed on this bank of the river all near this place also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Va and several cavalry and one artillery companies I received a letter from home dated the 7<sup>th</sup> they were all well The health of our regiment is excellent We elected Capt. AM Scales Colonel of our Regiment a few days since. he has gone home to buy two horses, will return in 10 days our floating battery at Norfolk is nearly complete. When it is finished you may bid farewell to the blockade at Newport News I think they expect to be driven from there soon by their burning up all the property they can find in that section.

We are building houses for winter I write in great haste write to me direct as before

WM Nunnally

If you see M.C.H. give him my best respect let me know when you expect to get home how tobacco is selling etc (?)

W.M.N.

Dear Sister

I received a letter from you a few days since and seat myself to night to reply. I wrote to J.F.N. immediately and \_\_\_ this it has found its way to it destination. \_\_\_ Watt will start home tomorrow I expect to send this by him. I have no news of much importance. The past week has been quite pleasant, but the air begins to feel like frost tonight. Though we have had none yet. We expected to leave here tomorrow, but we will have to remain here another week, when that is out we will return to Ben Church to spend the winter.

I saw three fine large dwelling houses burn down last Sunday on the other side of James River about two miles above Newport N. I have not heard who burnt them, some think the Yankees did it others think it was our men to keep the enemy from occupying them as they had been tearing some down in that neighborhood and carrying them to N. News and rebuilding them for winter quarters. Some of McGrouders men caught 14 of the Yankees hauling them away. took them prisoners and they are now in Richmond and will spend the winter there.

We heard last Friday that some of the Yankees were near this bank of the River (about two miles below here) the night before (no doubt) sounding the river to see if they could bring boats up to the bank or not and land troops there. So Friday night I took three men and went down to the place to see if they would come again but they did not. I left the camp about 9 o'clock PM and started off to the place they were the night before full two miles through the Swamp. I had to take off my shoes and socks, roll up my pants and wade through the water part of the way. We reached the spot half after 10 oclock with our feet wet and cold (we could not have any fire to dry them) put on our shoes \_\_\_.

Staid there all night with guns loaded watching for the enemy. If they had come we would have given them a few confederate pills that would made them sick of this side the river. Such is some of the hardships of war, but we perform all such without complaint

I learned yesterday that the Yankees had landed 70

rifled cannon and 500 artillery horses at Fotrep (Fortress) Monroe within the last week. it is thought that they intend making an attact on our forces on the othe side The River or at Norfolk. I have no doubt if they make an attact at either place that it will be the bloodiest fight during the war Every thing has been quite still during the last week, but I look for exciting time before this week is ended. from several different points.

Every thing about Manassa I think indicates hot work there soon. Our troops have the Potomac block- added and have fallen back on their entrenchments at Bull Run intending to fight on the same ground they did before) and the Yankees are almost compellid to attact them in a few days. You will hear of much hard fighting during the next two weeks. enough I hope to close the war. which I think will not be as long as many predict, it will though for the sake of the enormous sallery They are getting the Yankee Generals may try and keep up the war a long time.

I wrote to uncle T J Mills a few days since. I hope he will be down to see us soon

I wrote also to Mr W.P. Watt, F Neal Mrs C.C. Thomas and Mip (Miss) Laura J\_\_\_\_\_ (who the boys here say is my jularkie) having received letters from them all except F.J.M. within the last few days. So you see I have several correspondences

Tell uncle B.H.Carter that the mosquitoes are about all gone. Tell Egr. Rawley and Capt. Leftwich that I owe them a thrashing for not coming to see us when they down at the 4<sup>th</sup> regiment. Esqr Harrip (Harriss) came over and spent one evening. Our company are all well except two slight cases of measels, they will be well in a few days. I saw a large flock of wild geese this evening going southward wich is A sign of cold weather they say in this country We elected A.M. Scales colonel of this Regiment. I hope he will make an excellent officer but hear that he will not have enough confidence in himself. I would not give Col Pender if we hall him back for Gen Johnston, by the way while I am speaking of generals, Gen Pemberton was down to see us last Thursday and took dinner with us. he is commander of this Brigade. he is also the the man that shook his fist in Gen McClellan's face, who

is now commander of the Yankee army, and called him a cowardly dog and Abolitionist about the time this fup (fuss) first broke out. They were then in the same regiment in the regular army. Stationed out somewhere on the Western Frontier. he is a fine looking and pleasant gentleman talks freely and distinct, has a very pleasant countenance, keen smart eye, good size, well formed and about 40 years old. he has all the appearance of a General. Lieut. Col. Guy took dinner with us to day So you see we are honered once and awhile with the the presence of the aristocracy, as the cooks here call them) I hope you will excuse bad writing as I have been bothered no little and as my candle has about burnt out I must close for the present. The paymaster will be round tomorrow then we will have money to buy anything we want (candles and \_\_) My pay is \$80 dollars per month which is quite enough to clothe and feed me Give my love to Ma and family and all that may enquire after me. Accept my best wishes for your health and \_\_ let me hear from you soon

W.M. Nunnally

PS

~~If you have an opportunity send me some butter and the bed quilt and \_\_ send it to coll Watts~~

If you have an opportunity send me some butter all you have to spare and the other things I wrote for. Send them to K.B. Watts and Bob Watt will bring them down Butter is quite scarce in this country we pay 30 cts pr lb for it, 25 cts for Bacon, 25 cts for chickens common size little over half grown, 25 for lard, 5 cts pr lb for Flour and 40 cts for potatoes which is the only thing we can get cheap. Bob will return in 10 days from the time he leaves here

W.M.N.

*Note from the transcriber:*

*"Jularkie" is defined as a sweetheart back home*

Ragged Island  
Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Sister

Your letter sent by O. \_\_ Fitzgerald came to hand a few days since. I have not seen him nor the hat but we will return to the church tomorrow where I will see him and get it. We have staid our time out at this place and will not have to come here any more.

We have nothing to do here except guard duty which is very hard. We have pickets stationed on the river for there mills The Yankees at Newport News shot at a small boat last Friday that was going up the River near this bank and the ball struck the water in about ten feet of this bank and about twenty felt from one of our company (who was standing guard at that place) throwing water all over him, which made him double quick to get behind the large pine tree which caused much laughter by the other sentinels that was close by. They shot at the boat four times. The balls passed very close to her The boatman who made quick time to get away and AB Powell who got the sprinkling

We see a house burn down nearly every night on the other side of the river. we have been expecting to hear of hard fighting in that direction but as yet nothing of the sort has happened only one little skirmish near great Bethell. which was almost in sight of us. we could hear the report of the guns and expected to hear of a very hard fight but in only turned out to be a short skirmish. I would give you a correct account of the fight at Leesburg but suppose you have seen it before this. The Yankee lop (loss) was very great

I was down on the river this morning but nothing that looked like a fight If the weather will keep like it has been for the last few days we will have a nice time for fighting during

the next month That is the time we expect the Yankees to attack Norfolk if they attact it at all if they ever commence fighting in this section it will be the bloodyist fighting during this war this is an important point and they will exert all their available power to take it and we will do likewise to hold it. Our troops in this section are in excellent trim for fighting. The health of this regiment is excellent. The men

look as well or better than I ever saw them. Hugh S. is as fleshy or more so than he ever was before. John Wyatt looks about as usual. Speaks frequently of the ladies in Rockingham wonders where they are such a Sunday. said to day he wished he was at Mt. Caronie (?) to see them all. George \_\_\_ cut off his moustache a few days ago. Said he was afraid the ladies would fall in love with him down here if he did not cut it off. The Capt. is looking well and says we boys writes to more women than any fellows he ever say and that when the war is over we will all get kicked ski high. Hugh says when he gets back he is going to tell them the old man has been off to the war fighting for them and that he wants a wife and that he wants them to remember how they sang Dixie and waived their handkerchiefs for the old man when he was leaving home and how they fed him on cakes and spoon victuals and that they cant fool the old man that way. That he has got to have a wife and the right kind a one at that.

I am quite well to night also all that you are acquainted with in our company Gus Watkins has improved as much as you would imagine. he is a no one boy and bids fair to make an excellent and useful man any parent might well be proud of such a son It is getting quite late and I must bid you good night. let me hear from you often give me all the news. give my love to all inquiring friends and accept for yourself the best wishes \_\_\_

W.M. Nunnally

*Note from the transcriber:*

*Victual - food supplies or provisions*

Camp Ruffin Va  
Jany 22nt 1862

Dear Sister

Your very kind favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> came to hand last night. it found me quite well with the exception of a slight cold. which is caused no doubt by the sudden changes in the weather which has been quite frequent during the present month. Several of the company have been suffering

with cold during the last week Thoug I believe they are all improving. We have had a slight fall of snow twice this winter but it did not last long. The winter has been unusually warm and dry So far though I fear we will have a rainey time from now until Spring The blockade for furloughs has been opened and about fifty men from this regiment have gone home. five from our company including Capt. Bailey. They will all return soon when an equal number will start again my time comes next and if they don't stop granting them before the 5<sup>th</sup> of February I think I will start home though you need not look for me until you see me as it is uncertain whether. I will get the chance to come or not you send to Stacyville Friday night the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month to see if I send a letter at that time I may if I conclude to go by Danville write for you to send for me. We raised a flag over our camp to day for the first time when they started the flag up the long pole the band played Dixie and afterwards while it was floating in the soft freeze high in the air they ended the affair by playing Old North State. I mus conclude as I have no news write soon give my love to all the family I am as ever your friend and brother

W M Nunnally

PS Tell Ma I have not reinlisted yet  
I never wrote any love secrets to Mip (Miss) L.

WMN

Bens Church Va  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1861

Mipes (Misses) V.A. and S.S. Nunnally  
Dear Sister

Yours of the 28 \_\_\_\_ has been received. also all the things you sent. I want you to make me two linnen bosom shirts I will send you the money to pay for them by some one piping (passing) get a good article of Linnen some worth about 100 cts per yard. We get plenty coffee and have it twice a day. but I understand that it is getting scare. All the men have been getting plenty until a few days part. Now they draw only half the quantity they did until the last five days.

every thing is very high and it looks like it will take all we make to feed and clothe us, as the officers have to feed and clothe themselves. I have no news to write we are all well, only having about 10 sick in the whole regiment

We are nearly through building houses. 9 or 10 men will be put in a house. They are a little larger than your kitchen. They will be quite warm and comfortable. Hugh and I will have one to ourselves we continue to be as good friends as ever.

John is on guard to day Gus. and G.W.A. are both writing to some of their friends. every thing seems to be quiet in this section. Hoping to hear from you soon I am you friend and brother

W.M. Nunnally

Monday Nov 11 All well this morning no news

Camp Ruffin Va.  
Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1861

Mr. J. F. Nunnally

Dear Brother

Yours of the 22 just came to hand a few days since, it found me quite well and enjoying Christmas as well as could be expected in camp. The boys many of them had egg-nogg and I could see plainly that many of them felt like they were commanders of companies. Some two or three on getting sober found themselves in the guard house. Though I never saw as many drunken men in so large a crowd considering they had plenty of the intoxicating weed at their command. We have been excused from drill during Christmas and the men have been amusing themselves playing different games at Ball, Drafts flying kites \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing of importance is transpiring in this section. both armies seem to be waiting for the other to advance the commander of this Division has been getting men to go on board the Iron Clad Steamer, Merimack, now about complete at Norfolk WW Lyons of our company and several others of this regiment are going on it, it is represented as being a good thing and will have a chance to try its strength on the blockading fleet now in Hampton Roads.

I expected to be at home about this time but no one is allowed to leave camp only one day at a time. I hope however that the Maj. General will give orders to let men go home on Furloughs soon. The health of the Regiment is excellent, all of your acquaintances are enjoying good health.

They send best respects \_\_\_. John Guerrant says tell you that he has not turned out his whiskers yet but expects every day that he will. I have not heard from home since you left. I believe I will close as I think it doubtful about your getting it write to me soon and give me all the news - good luck and peace to you

W M Nunnally

*Note from the transcriber: A copy of this letter was obtained on January 25, 2010 from a large collection of letters donated by a private party to The Cornell University Library. It is currently housed there in their library in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, in the Gail and Stephen Rudin Collection of Civil War Letters Box #1, Folder #19.*

*This is the only known letter from WM Nunnally that is there. We were told that the remainder of the collection consists much of Union letters home. It is not known if this letter ever made it to the addressed, although that is highly doubtful. In the final sentence, William mentions that he doesn't believe that the letter will make it home. It is also not known how it came to the person's hand that ultimately kept it.*

Camp Ruffin Va  
Jany 5<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mipes (Misses) VA and SS Nunnally

Dear Sisters

Your kind letters of various dates sent by Mat. was received last night. hw was several days on the way oweing to the trouble of changing the boxes from one car to another on the different roads Every thing came safe. I guep (guess) we will live a little better now for several days than usual. tell Nannie I got the apple which is almost a curiosity here. I found the shirts made of as good material as I expected. J.W.S. Guerrant received a fine \_\_\_\_\_ from home. I am invited to dine with him when he cook it. Capt Baily and Lieut Watt also received a large coop of chickens, jar of butter and pickles and Hugh received many things of the same sort.

The weather is quite cold and we have but little to do. Standing guard goes very hard now the men have to stand 2 hours at a time. We have sentry boxed for them to stand in during rainy weather. it looks very much like snow and I hope the commander of this division will no longer anticipate an attact on this division and commence granting furloughs again. Capt Bailey is very anxious to go home and when they open the blockade for furloughs (as the boys call it) again he will start home immediately. after he returns I will go if it is not too late or too near the close of our time. Christmas paper (passed) off quite pleasantly. Some of the men had eggnog and I could see some few that felt their keeping and acted like they were commanders of the post instead of privates one or two from getting sober found themselves in the Guard House. during Christmas a little engagement took place in Hampton Roads between a confederate and Federal Steamers. The Federal Streamer was towing a schooner from Newport News to Old Point. The confederate steamer put after them and got close around her when the federal steamer left the schooner and put for Old Point at the rates of 2-40

The Schooner was captured and they started back to Norfolk with her. They had not gone far when they found they were pursued by Seven Federal Gun Boats seeing they

would soon overtake her. She halted for a fight. The only way she had to keep the prize she had just taken. Pretty soon the Yankees halted and began to fire on our Steamer. but they had come to near our shore and our batteries at Sewels Point and Crainey Inland opened upon them such a fire as they had not been used to. Thus for upwards of two hours the continued thunder of the cannon was was kept up. The Yankees to make all the fup (fuss) they could on the occasion commenced fireing from the Battery (at RipRaps) at our camp and battery at Sewells Point. The report was very loud and earth would tremble at a fearful rate. after a while a shot struck one of the gun boats and shattered it to pieces and the other fearing they would show the same fate put back and our steamer went on to Norfolk with her prize. The Yankees did us no harm only they killed a chicken at Sewels Point by the explosion of a shell.

Two hundred and forty Yankee prisoners were released last Friday. The were sent down the River from Richmond they were put on a Federal Steamer that came up after them they met oposite our battery at Todds Point and the two companies that are stationed there had a fair view of the affair. Wm Miles was to see us yesterday he only staid about half an hour. he went back to the 4<sup>th</sup> rgt. he will start home to night. No one was down to see us during Christmas and I believe this is the first Christmas that I reckolect of but what I said Christmast Gift to some one but I heard nothing of the sort here. I have about a dozen shells for you the prettiest I could find. we are too far from the ocean to get many. The Mulbery colored coat you spoke of is worth 7 or 8 dollars. We are all well and time is paping (passing) as pleasantly as we could expect. I have no new to interest you give my love to all the family and all inquiring friends write soon and give me all the news. have you seen uncle — Mills? What did he say about things down here? The paymaster paid me up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. I have upward of two hundred dollars tell Ma if she any money to let me know and I will try and let her have a little. our expenses is very great and it hard to save any thing I must bid you farewell. accept the best wishes of your brother

W M Nunnally

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT NORTH CAROLINA.

Adjutant General's Office,  
Raleigh, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1862

Captain:

Your return of clothing for the quarter ending Dec. 31 1861 has been received and transmitted to the auditor, Capt Edmondston, for settlement.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant

*J.G. Martin*  
(signature)  
Adjutant General

---

Capt. G.P. Bailey,  
Co K. 13<sup>th</sup> Reg. N.C. Troops.  
Smithfield Va.

Camp of 13<sup>th</sup> N.C. Troops  
Near Fredericksburg Va Decr.

28<sup>th</sup>/62

Dear Sister

I have waited several days to hear from you but as no letter has come I again write thinking that you probbably failed to get the letter I sent after the battle of Fredericksburg. This leaves me in better health than I have been for several months. We have got a tent at last and can get shelter from the rain and snow. we drew two for the company which is not enough, but will answer for the men to put their knapsacks and guns into in time of rain and about fifteen of them to sleep in at night. We have had a dull Christmas thus far Capt. Wall came down a few days before Christmas and brought a box of cakes to which we enjoyed finely and Bill Edwell a free boy came last night and brought another box with apples, sausage meat, souse, potatoe pies and a jar of lard which we are feasting on to day, and almost forget that we ever fared so badly as we have for the last five months. I was surprised at your not sending my coat to by Capt. Wall he said you promised to send them to his

Grandma's but failed to do so and supposed you had some other way to get them here but they have not come yet. You need not send the cap, I bought me a hat a few days ago. I need the coats worse than anything else Everything seems quiet here, I don't expect any more fighting soon. The Yankees seem satisfied to remain north of the Rappahannock and we satisfied to wait for them to move. We have had no work to do since Christmas came and have been spending our time talking and thinking of home. I imagined that that all the speculators had egg-nog and those that had sons in the army prepareing a few cakes to treat the few friends that would call on them during the holidays and that ma said she did not feel like fixing anything without Will was there but will is not there and sis and Susan has everything to do and of course Susan has to fix something because Neal, or Mack, told her that some young gent was coming to spend two or three days in that neighborhood and she wanted to give them something nice. have you diped up all the snuff that James give you if you have not let Charles have a dip for Christmas. I would like to be a home this week to talk to the pretty women while they are cheerful they all seemed dull and distreped (distressed) when I was at home last which I suppose has worn off to a great extent. Rockingham lost but few men in the late battle. D.S. Paschal of our company runn like a turkey when the shells commenced exploding around us. one fell in front of us and knocked the dirt all over the company which caused the men to stick close to the ground

The balance of the day, one large shell exploded near my head which made me deaf in one ear for several minutes. I believe I told you about trying to wake the dead man. The boys have laughed at me about it several times since, but I did not feel like laughing when I found that he was dead. I see that the Yankees admit a perfect failure on this part. I saw Banister Fitzgerald yesterday, he came down to see his son Thomas in this regt. but he had been sent to the hospital at Richmond a few days before, he had no news and did not remain with us long, several I learn came to Richmond but could not get a papport (passport) to come to the army. I suppose there is no difficulty now in getting

through. I looked for some of our acquaintances to see us last week but as yet none have come and I don't look for any now. I heard a few days ago that Elarjah Robertson was dead I had hoped that he would recover as he was the only son of a widowed mother but death appearantly has no one to please and often takes those first that seemingly to us ought to be last but the Supreme judge knows best and we ought willing to submit to it. I am nearly our of paper and must close, give my love to all the family and accept for yourself the best wishes of you brother

W.M. Nunnally

Camp Ruffin Va  
Feby 16<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mip. (Miss) V.A. Nunnally

I write to inform you that I got to camp last evening and found the company generally well. Thos. Harville has been quite sick while I was at home but is improving quite fast. I found the men all expecting to fight and every thing ready to march at a moments warning. everybody thinks we will have a fight somewhere near Norfolk or Suffolk soon. The greatest excitement prevails throughout the county The militia have all been called out and drilling nearer every day and all the creeks and rivers are being blockaded and all hands expect to see the Yankees soon I never saw a country in such a state of excitement The soldiers have everything packed and ready to leave and I saw several wagon loads of trunks \_\_\_\_ yesterday on their way to the depot so they could send them where they would not be taken A cavalry company that was stationed near us have been ordered away. none of the infantry regiments have been moved. Gen Hughs says that if he sends off any it will be the 4<sup>th</sup> rgt. but I think we will all be needed where we are. The people think Norfolk and Suffolk will be attacted on the front and rear at the same time and for the first time believe it though I think the enemy will wait several days as the roads is in a bad condition before they advance. we may be deceived they may not advance in this direction at all, but all hands believe they will. we will have a desperate fight if they do come as they will out number us. Though I dont see how they can

advance while the weather is so bad. we had a slight fall of hail last night which makes the are quite cool it is a bad time for men to be in cloth tents. The men all seem cheerful and ready for the fight we only have two men on the sick list and I hope they will be able in a few days to do service. I saw one fine large schooner going down a creek that emties in James River to be sunk to prevent the paping (passing) of the Federal Boats everything that can be done to prevent their passage is being done with all our might. Though I see nor hear of any move on the part of the Yankees that seems to indicate that they intend advancing in the direction. Though we have every reason to believe that they are trying to cut off our RailRoad between Norfolk and Weldon and if that be their object that they will advance both ways. Though they may do all this and still we may not be engaged in the fight. I hope however this excitement will soon die away and that we will have no fight for it seems to me that it is imposible for an army to advance at this time on land and although there is so much excitement about it. I dont see any great reason for it especially in this neighborhood. for I think the fight even if they have one is more likely to be fifty miles from here on a little river <sup>called</sup> Blackwater than any where else. I write this for fear that you may hear quite a different report and that you all may become excited at some false report. I will write to you again in a few days and keep you posted about affairs in this section I am sorry Jas Harriss and Geo Leftwich told that this regiment had been ordered away for there has been nothing said or done to justify the report. I think our regiment will be the last that will have to leave and I think that we will all have to stay where we are I hope you will not be ready to believe every little sensation rumor you hear. for I will give you all the news from this section I apprehend but little danger at present. HL and John Guerrant are both very well. Our lop (loss) in killed at Roanoke Island in killed is reported very small. I have but little news to interest you. I hope to hear from you soon. I will write again in a few days.

Give my respects to all inquiring friends and accept for yourself the love of your Brother

W.M. Nunnally

Monday 17

Every thing quiet, it is raining very hard. Stoped granting furloughs. Several regiments came to Suffolk yesterday. I dont know what state they are from. I guep (guess) the government will continue to reinforce this country

WMN

Camp Gregg Va  
Feby 22/62

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> just came to hand a few days since. I had heard that Mother failed to take the land I suppose she is not worsted by that for land be always be very high in that section. My notion is that she had better try and make every dollar she can while produce is high so that she can buy hands to work it when the war ends. That is destined to be the finest country in the confederacy everything that can be made to eat will find a splendid market in Danville or Richmond and tobacco will always bring a good price, a large portion of Virginia that use to raise tobacco will turn its attention to the culture of grain and vegetables after the war to supply southern cities that have usually been supplied to a large intent from Pennsylvania and other northern states. I think you could hire a good able negro to assist you in making a large crop of tobacco you would do well to do it, tobacco will keep at an enormous price for several years after the war.

Things have changed here since I wrote to you last, a large portion of the army has gone to Richmond or below there on black water a little river below Petersburg where I expect the next fight will be, a large portion of the Yankee army have left and gone to ports unknown to me. I suppose Gen. Lee knows as he seems to know everything about their movements \_\_. To day is Sunday and has been snowing all day it commenced last night about 12 oclock and has continued over since and is now about thirteen inches deep, it is precisely such a time as we had the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1857 only the wind is not so hard though is it sufficient to blow the snow inn at every little crack or hole under or about the tent it is now one oclock P.M. and is

snowing as hard as ever. Since I have been writing this twenty four reports of cannon from the Yankee side The River has been distinctly heard. I can't tell the meaning of it, it may be that they are fireing off loaded pieces to keep the loads from getting wet in the guns or that they are fired to salute some distinguished vision to their army.

Although many of our soldiers are badly clad they are always glad to see snow for it puts off the fight a few days longer and gives them a few more days rest. we have gaily times snow balling each other, this regiment and the 12<sup>th</sup> S.C. had a desperate fight with these harmlep (harmless) balls a few days ago. we give them their fill of it and drove them back to their camp. These fights are carried out on the same principle as the battle with the Yankees only all in good humor, We fish \_\_ out skirmishers to find where the main body of the enemy lay after we find that and drive in their skirmishers then we throw the main part of our line on the weak part of theirs to break it and create confusion among them, we are divided in companies and each company a commander. So you see the service has not taken all the boyish notions and sport from us that we used to have, The Yanks seem to be afraid to risk their carcapes (carcasses) on this side the Rhauponack again and are probably making haste to gain a good position somewhere below Richmond to commence another siege on that place, if they do disease will thin their ranks faster than Southern bullets. Though they may be deceiving us and may try and crop (cross) the river and Fredericksburg once more

I have tried to get you another box of caps but have not succeeded yet, I could send you Musket caps but I fear they would not answer All of your acquaintances here are well Thos Harville and John Guerrant are both looking quite well Gen. Anderson is quite well also. My health has been excellent all the time I have been at this place, with exception of rheumatism which troubles me at times, I will close as I have nothing further to interest you. Give my love to Sister Kate, Ma and family and accept for yourself the best wishes for your welfare, happinep (happiness) and contentment of your brother

W.M. Nunnally

Note from the transcriber:

"Rappahannock" is the Rappahannock River (on page 2) in eastern Virginia that traverses the northern part of the state from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Chesapeake Bay, south of the Patomac river.

Camp Ruffin Va  
Mar 10<sup>th</sup>/62

Dear Sister

I take my seat to give you an account of one of the most desperate fights that has ever taken place on American water. day before yesterday Saturday, about one Oclock P.M. The large iron clad steamer (Merimack) that has just been completed at Norfolk came out into Hampton Roads and attacted the two blockading ships that were anchored opposite Newport News. She had hardly got within range of the guns on the two ships when the Federals opened fire on her from both ships and the battery. although the fire from them was very heavy she (the M.) kept on until she had got as close as she desired then the terrible work commenced. In a short time one of the Federal ships had been badly damaged and began to sink. Then the Yankees began to climb up on the Mast. They could be seen plainly from this side hanging to the rope and by the time our boat could get to her she had gone to the bottom of the river and no doubt the most of her crew with her. by this time three other of our boats (small steamers) that had been anchored up the river several miles came down and began to take a part in the fight and in an hour afterwards the other large ship had surrendered and hoisted a white flag. a few moments after this two other large ships came up from Fortrep (Fortress) Monroe and began to fire on our little fleet but one of them was soon disabled and had to return. The other stood her ground and fought desperately until dark. This vessel was the Minesota which is the best ship in the Federal Navy

Yesterday at sunrise the fight was renewed with as much fury as the day before and the ship (Minesota) that fought so hard the evening before was soon disabled and

could not get away but continued to fight with as much vigor as before, twelve steamers came to her assistance and pretty soon one of the most dreadful fights that I ever heard of was raging which continued until 12 M when both parties seemed to quit with equal willingnep (willingness). I learn that the Federals burnt the Minnesota last night to keep us from getting it <sup>though I doubt it</sup> The ship we captured Saturday we could not get it away so we set it on fire Saturday night and burnt it. about midnight its magazine exploded which was a sight almost beyond description. Imagine ten thousand streaks of lightning all accompanied by tremendous peals of thunder all flying through the air at the same time and you only have a first idea of it. window glap (glass) was shaken out twenty miles around and the earth trembled fearfully and it was almost as light as day for many miles around. I witneped (witnessed) nearly all the fight as soon as it commenced John W. Guerrant and I in company with several others went down to the river where we had a plain view of it all both days. I will give you the supposed number of guns used on both sides. on the Cumberland 40, Congrep (Congress) 40, Minnesota 70 all the steamers 20 and the battery of Newport News 15. Total number of Federal Guns 185. On the Merimack 14, Patrick Henry 7, Jamestown 4 Teaser 1 Battery of Sewells Point 20 Total number Confederate Guns 46. Total number of confederate and federal guns 231. I forgot the mention the guns on the ship that is caped which was at least 50 making in all 281. Imagine you see all those guns fireing as fast as they can load them and the report of each louder than thunder and you have an idea of what I saw. You will see a full account of the affair in the papers and you will soon see it in history to be handed down to future generations The excitement around here is about as it was when I wrote last. all of our company is well except T Harville he has had another sick spell I think he is improving. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> last night we received The Norfolk papers stating that our lop (loss) was 7 and the Federals upwards of 600. write soon

W M Nunnally

Sept 28, 1862

Dear Brother

I write to inform you that I am well. we have been in two hard battles T W Hornbuckle and Peyton Chanihay was killed and several others wounded and miping (missing). Tell John Guerrant that Hugh says he had better not come to the Regt. unlep (unless) he is entirely well for we are marching from 15 to 20 miles daily and it takes a stout man to stand it. Hugh F. Guerrant and R L Watt are well send Mrs Matt word that Bob is well we are near Bunker Hill in Va we expect to go to Winchester tomorrow Elarja Robertson was killed J. W. Rawlig was taken prisoner we are seeing the hardest lines we ever saw. We get nothing but fresh beef and bread without soda or lard. I will write again in a few days this is the first opportunity I have had to write many of your acquaintances are killed and wounded. N H Gregory has one leg cut off Joseph Patterson is miping (missing) we are worse cut up than we have ever been before Where our Regt. fought was the bloodiest potin of the line Gen. Garland was with our Regt. when he was killed be sure to let Esq Guerrant and R B Watt hear from High and Bob. Nothing more at present

W M Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
Feby 18/63

Dear Sister

I write again hoping to hear from you before I write again for this makes three letters I have sent you since I have received any, This leaves me quite well. we are expecting another attack here, The Yankees are engaged making roads to the river ten miles below Fredericksburg and nearly oposite where we are stationed we had a slight fall of rain this morning which will keep them back a few days longer. The pickets have been fireing at each other several days which has not been allowed until they began to build roads to the river banks we all are enjoying fine health and are able to make a hard fight when you hear that our army is whipped you may know that forty thousand men are

left dead on the battlefield I never saw troops more determined than this whole army. Give my love to all, in haste,

WM Nunnally

Camp of 13<sup>th</sup> N.C. Troops  
Near Fredericksburg Va  
Decr. 28<sup>th</sup>/62

Dear Sister

I have waited several days to hear from you but as no letter has come I again write thinking that you probbably failed to get the letter I sent after the battle of Fredericksburg. This leaves me in better health than I have been for several months. We have got a tent at last and can get shelter from the rain and snow. we drew two for the company which is not enough, but will answer for the men to put their knapsacks and guns into in time of rain and about fifteen of them to sleep in at night. We have had a dull Christmas thus far Capt. Wall came down a few days before Christmas and brought a box of cakes to which we enjoyed finely and Bill Edwell a free boy came last night and brought another box with apples, sausage meat, souse, potatoe pies and a jar of lard which we are feasting on to day, and almost forget that we ever fared so badly as we have for the last five months. I was surprised at your not sending my coat to by Capt. Wall he said you promised to send them to his Grandma's but failed to do so and supposed you had some other way to get them here but they have not come yet. You need not send the cap, I bought me a hat a few days ago. I need the coats worse than anything else Everything seems quiet here, I don't expect any more fighting soon. The Yankees seem satisfied to remain north of the Rappahonnock and we satisfied to wait for them to move. We have had no work to do since Christmas came and have been spending our time talking and thinking of home. I imagined that that all the speculators had egg-nog and those that had sons in the army prepareing a few cakes to treat the few friends that would call on them during the holidays and that ma said she did not feel like fixing anything without Will

was there but will is not there and sis and Susan has everything to do and of course Susan has to fix something because Neal, or Mack, told her that some young gent was coming to spend two or three days in that neighborhood and she wanted to give them something nice. have you diped up all the snuff that James give you if you have not let Charles have a dip for Christmas. I would like to be a home this week to talk to the pretty women while they are cheerful they all seemed dull and distreped (distressed) when I was at home last which I suppose has worn off to a great extent. Rockingham lost but few men in the late battle. D.S. Paschal of our company runn like a turkey when the shells commenced exploding around us. one fell in front of us and knocked the dirt all over the company which caused the men to stick close to the ground The balance of the day, one large shell exploded near my head which made me deaf in one ear for several minutes. I believe I told you about trying to wake the dead man. The boys have laughed at me about it several times since, but I did not feel like laughing when I found that he was dead. I see that the Yankees admit a perfect failure on this part. I saw Banister Fitzgerald yesterday, he came down to see his son Thomas in this regt. but he had been sent to the hospital at Richmond a few days before, he had no news and did not remain with us long, several I learn came to Richmond but could not get a papport (passport) to come to the army. I suppose there is no difficulty now in getting through. I looked for some of our acquaintances to see us last week but as yet none have come and I don't look for any now. I heard a few days ago that Elarjah Robertson was dead I had hoped that he would recover as he was the only son of a widowed mother but death appearantly has no one to please and often takes those first that seemingly to us ought to be last but the Supreme judge knows best and we ought willing to submit to it. I am nearly our of paper and must close, give my love to all the family and accept for yourself the best wishes of you brother

W.M. Nunnally

Camp of 13<sup>th</sup> NC Troops  
near Fredericksburg  
Jany 4<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

Your very kind favor sent by Capt. T.C. Mare came to hand a few days since as I informed you in my letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ The clothes and other articles came safe I think the piece of check good is very pretty and would like to have a shirt of it of course. Capt Mons regt. Is only half a mile from us as I have recently learned I have not seen him but intend visiting him soon. I have but little news. All is quiet here. The men are improving in looks very fast. We are having a long resting resting spell and are being fed much better than here before. We get some sugar and molasses in addition to what we have been drawing and have drawn some blankets and quilts which helps to make us comfortable to a small extent. I heard that Rockingham had contributed very freely to the 45<sup>th</sup> Regt. but they failed to give to the needy companies in other regiments who have hope to fight all the important battles in Va. but helped them on men that knows nothing of the hardships of war and who knows nothing of the horrors of the battlefield and privations of the camp or toils and wearriednep (wearriedness) of the march and when compared to us have been wrapped up in comfort and plenty, but it is all right with them. Our regiment has lost all they had twice, only what they had on, by leaving them off to fight. The enemy who was preping (pressing) on us at a rapid rate but they were taken by our friends and are probabbly doing some of our soldiers good service. As to myself I am very comfortable and have plenty clothing of all kinds. But to night fourteen fourteen of our company would have to take the cold without anything to cover them if it had not been for charitable friends in other counties sending us quilts, carpets and blankets. but I yet hope that our county will remember us and hope they will look to the comfort of the families of those who are not able to provide for themselves and we will try and excuse them for neglecting us. When they have to suffer like the people of Fredricksburg they will come to their senses. I was in sight of the town two days during the late battle and saw

hundreds if not thousands of bomb shells burst in the place and fine houses in flames women and children running through the snow to escape the danger. Friday morning before the fight on Saturday, hundreds of women and children had collected about a mile from the town where the cars stop in an open field. it was intensely cold but they had to stay there until day yes until ten o'clock to wait for the train to take them off. Young ladies and children who seemed to know not what it was to suffer for want of anything was there chilled through crying and wringing their hands with cold and standing in the snow with thin shoes. You may ask why they didn't go to somebody's house, but there was no house they could get to. every road and path was filled with troops and artillery wagons. I did not see this myself but one of our company and hundreds of others tell me it is true. I will now give you an instance that came under my own observation the same morning that made my blood boil with revenge. A lady of Fredricksburg who waited until day light before she left. She was about 25 years of age, had four small children. She had got about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from the town when we met her. She came crying from cold with one child in her arms some two or three months old leading another or draging it that was about one and half years. The other two following after her all crying and nearly frozen. I heard several remarks that it was too much for a Southern man to bare and that we ought to die rather than submit to it. Yesterday this regiment gave \$1018  $\frac{00}{100}$ , one thousand and eighteen dollars to help buy provision for the poor and suffering of that town. Our company gave \$124,  $\frac{00}{100}$  of that amount. The regt only number 375 men. Gen. Pender said when he received the amount from Col. Scales that he was proud that he had so noble a regiment is his brigade and that he knew that the old thirteenth would be as generous as she was brave. Last night about nine o'clock all the men in the regt. went to the Col. Scales tent and called him out for a speech, he said he was surprised and hardly knew what to say. but made a very nice talk on the signs of the times \_\_. at the winding up we gave him three hearty cheers and the band played Dixie like they wanted all the world to hear it. We have heard of Braggs great victory in

the west and hope that the Yankees will not fight any more before Spring I must close. Give my love to all the family. Let me hear from you soon

WM Nunnally

Camp Gregg,  
Jany 18<sup>th</sup> 1863

M Jas F Nunnally

Dear Brother

Yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> just came to hand last night. Found me well, and glad to hear that you were the same also That you and sister Kate were in the enjoyment of of happinep (happiness) kipes (kisses) \_\_, The latter I had almost forgotten, but since you mentioned it , I have a faint reckolection of kiping (kissing) a girl once myself and If I am not mistaken it puts rather a strange feeling on a fellow that is not used to the like. I was surprised to hear that our coat had ragged sleaves and fear that by the time it comes my time to wear it, it will look more like a rag buyer than a soldier. I have a box of caps that I will send. The first opportunity you all had better be vaccinated for fear of the small pox. I suppose you have heard of the death of Capt. R. L. Watt he had the typhoid pneumonia. he was sick nine days, died very easy, was willing to die so far as being prepared was concerned. he said he made a profession of religion a short time before he left home. we done everything we could to save him. I wrote to Capt W P Graves three times to let his father know it but suppose he did not get word in time. J.H. Slade escorted him home. The balance of the company are well. We are under marching orders. We don't know yet where we will go, but it is generally believed that Wilmington N.C. is the place probably I will find our time enough to let know in this letter, if not I will write again after we start if we do have to leave we had rather stay here as things seems to be quiet here at present. but I don't care much if we do have to go there. The weather has been quite cold the last two days, but before that we had quite a warm time with the terrible south wind for two days and nights. I was on picket again last Tuesday I saw plenty Yankees and

was within two hundred of them. but I was not allowed to talk to or shoot at them. I hope all of our company that are at home will return to duty. It makes it much harder on those that are here their being away, and I fear they will not get off so easy next time. I think you did right to commence speculating again provided you can see any proffit in your purchases. everything is so high here that it seems impossible for me to save anything. I hope how ever that the war will soon end so that I can get at a more pleasant and profitable business provided I should survive in which I hope may be the case, but it looks like a war of extermination. I have little else of importance therefore I will conclude Tell Ma that I am well. I shall look for a letter from Sister Kate until it comes. direct your letters to Richmond until further orders. I will write again in a few days

My love to all. Good bye

WM Nunnally

Jany 19<sup>th</sup>

We have not left yet,  
we will go to N.C. when we leave

*Note from the transcriber:*

*M Jas F Nunnally is Mr. James Fields Nunnally  
Jany is January*

Camp Gregg Va  
March 29<sup>th</sup> 1863

Miss Virginia A. Nunnally

Dear Sister

I have been looking for a letter from you and James for two weeks but as yet none has arrived and I have concluded to write again thought I have already written three since I heard from you. You stated in your last that you were out of paper. I determined that should be no excuse and sent you paper, envelopes and stamps in the letter I wrote and since then I sent you more envelopes. I hope I may hear from you

by this evening mail. I have but little to tell you. Times are as quiet here as at any time during the winter. The weather continues to be cold and rainy. we have had only one fair day during this month that was Friday last the day appointed by President Davis for fasting and prayer. I never saw a national fast day So universally kept. Many a man who had never felt what it was to fast and pray before abstained from everything to eat or drink and seemed to feel that it was the duty of all to humble themselves before God. Col. Scales held prayer meeting in the morning and in the evening we had preaching at Gen. Penders Head quarters by an Episcopalian Minister from Suffolk. I never saw as many attentive listeners at preaching before at any one time, our brass band played most of the hymns which sounded very pretty with several hundred voices and when he kneeled to pray every man bowed down upon his knees. The first time I ever remember of seeing the like in such a large crowed and from their looks when they arose I judge every heart said, Amen. This is the best sign of peace that I have seen. When we become to feel that this is a national punishment and repent of our national sins this war will certainly end. Bible history teaches us that the hand of God is in all wars and all examples set forth there, show us, that is purifies a nation, purges the churches, and ends in general good for the cause of religion, and I full believe when God sees that we humble ourselves properly before him that he well not suffer another battle to be fought, and if I know to day that every soul in the confederate states was properly humbled and had determined to be a better people. I should not expect another battle and would make my calculations on going home in peace before may weeks. Then how important it is for us to humble ourselves before and plead with our Heavenly Ruler for peace and protection, and how much better He would be pleased to see us pursuing this course, but speculation has almost rumor people mad at home and many cowardly skulkers are speculating on what the wives and children of the soldiers are compelled to have to sustain life, but a day of retribution await all such men and the finger of scorn will be pointed at them and their children and the taunt uttered in their faces that they are extortioners

and cowards, how will such men feel in the company of the soldiers who has suffered on the battle field for this country and his famly suffered at home on account of these miserable speculators. The men in this army are determined that they shall not go unpunished, and I believe that should they escape punishment here, they will surely find it on that awful day when they appear before they judgement Seat of Christ.

The Yankee balloon was up for a long time day before yesterday, but I suppose they saw nothing but our vast fields of tents, it will be several days before they can advance even if they try. Gen Jackson has had all of the extra baggage sent to Richmond ready for a march if necessity requires it. Mathew Sparks and several others from Rockingham arrived here last Friday They were put in Co J.H. and C. They all wanted to join our company but there were not allowed to do so. Those three companies were the smallest in the regiment and Col. Scales wanted them filled up and besides that men who wait to be forced into service and brought here under a guard are not shown many favors. I don't think they feel much like fighting.

I wrote to uncle B.H. Carter a few days since. I hope he will answer it. Dora Mills owes me a letter I hope to hear from her soon. I received a letter from my jularkie a few days since, she told me the Association would be at Lickfork in August and that I must be certain and get there by that time. I hope I shall but it is too far ahead for me to make calculations on at present. The health of the army is excellent all of your acquaintances are quite well. I have been on court martial several weeks which keeps me from other duty and out of all bad weather. I hope it may last through all the cold weather in April. I heard a few days since that James had to go to Raleigh again to get excused is it true or not write to me and tell me all the news what the people are doing \_\_. I think people had better be sure to raise enough corn and pork for their own use. Times are bound to be hard as long as the war last. Give my love to all the family and enquiring friends and accept for yourself the kind wishes and prayers of your Brother.

W. M. Nunnally

Note from the transcriber:

"Jularkie" is defined as a sweetheart back home

Camp Gregg Va  
March 11<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

I write to let you know that I have received all the things you sent by Milton Baize and that I am quite well at present. I wrote to you some time ago to send my two flannel shirts by the first piping (passing) and in the same letter to make me another striped cotton shirt like the one you sent. I suppose you did not get the letter. I would like to have them yet the things you sent by Milton were very acceptable as everything is very scarce and high here, butter is 2,50 per lb bacon 1,25 corn meal 1,00 per gal. Since I wrote to you last I have traveled all through the army and have been down to Hanover Junction. witnep (witness) on Court Martial which is the first time I have been out of the lines of the army since last July. I am now on court martial in the Brigade. I am looking for a letter from James, as he promised to write about the first of March. I heard a few days since that uncle Thos J. Mills was quite sick. I have no news to tell you

Things are about the same as they were when I wrote last. it snowed all day yesterday and nearly all last night but melted nearly as fast as it fell. The country for fifteen miles down the River from Fredericksburg has had nearly all the wood cut off of it and we will have to move back in a short time I was at the battlefield a few days since the country the other side the river is white with yankee tents. I will send you some paper soon. write immediately. Give my love to all yours as ever

W.M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 63

Dear Sister

Yours of the 10<sup>th</sup> just came to hand yesterday. it found me quite well, I wrote to you a few days ago stating that I had received all the things sent by Milton. I heard yesterday that S Cherlep had made her a nev. cotton drep (dress) which was very pretty. I wonder if it is true. I will send you some paper and envelopes the first paping (passing). Share both ready to send now, if I can only meet with an opportunity I have no news to tell you. everythin continues quiet here. The weather is quite cold, it has snowed nearly every day this month, but not enough at any one time to cover the ground. The regiment is off on picket today. They will have a bad night to stand out on The river bank without fire or shelter. I am on court martial and have no duty to perform with the regiment. I hope the court will not adjourn until April then the weather will begin to get warm Hugh has been made captain and I first Lieutenant G. W. Anderson E (?) and Wm. R. Hotten Jr. E (?) We have had three men to die recently. Since we left Rens Church we have had seventeen killed and die with disease and several disabled for life and a few discharged for disability. The company numbers only 78 men and we have had 109 men in the company. I was at the battlefield at Fredericksburg a few days since. Things don't look now as they did then The timber has all been cut down on the hills this side the town. I could see several camps of Hookers army on the hills beyond the town and train of cars as they came to Falmouth, the Yankees desert nearly every day. four came acrop (across) the river yesterday I send you a piece of wild evergreen that grew on the battle ground at Fredericksburg. I sent you a paper a few days ago with Gen S Garlands portrait on it, which I want you to take good care of. I heard a few days ago that Neal. G. was married is it time.

I believe all of your acquaintances are well as I have nothing else to tell you I will close. Give my love to all inquiring friends and the family and \_\_\_\_\_ for yourself my best wishes \_\_\_\_\_

WM Nunnally

Notes from the transcriber:

"Hookers army" is in reference to Joseph Hooker, a major general for the union army

Camp Gregg Va.  
March 17<sup>th</sup>/63

Dear Brother

I received a letter from you about the 20<sup>th</sup> of February which I believe remains unanswered. You promised to write immediately after the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. I have not received the letter yet I suppose that you failed to write it. I have no news of importance to tell you. The Yankees are having a lively time across the river, for several hours yesterday we could hear the rattle of musketry and roar of cannon, and it is being kept up today. I suppose the yanks are having sh\_\_\_\_ battles or trying to get the negroes used to the sound or excitement by the time the next fight comes off, but when Minnie balls and bomb shells are mixed with the noise I guess it will cause quite a different sensation. For if there is anything that will scare these sons of Africa it is the explosion of shells. When an engagement is going on, you will see the negroes that the army has along to cook, running acrop (across) the hills nearly out of breath and almost frightened out of his senses if you stop one of them and ask what frightens him, he will be apt to tell you, that he carried breakfast down on the front line for he's mep (mess) and just as they commenced eating, a shell exploded right at this head and paped (passed) on and cut down 4 or 5 trees, and the Yankees were so close by that he had to leave before they finished eating and the bullets were flying like hail tearing every thing down before them, and that our men would all be killed or taken prisoners. And the only ground he would have for such a story would be the exploding of a shell quarter of a mile off and a few straggling balls from the yankee skirmishers The men say that the Yankees are fighting each other but we cant tell yet what they are doing, but it is not that. Furloughs have been stoped. So there will

be no more going home until next winter. I have some important papers here that I want to send home. But I fear that I will not have a safe opportunity soon. I send you an account against Capt. Glenn, if you see Dr Broadnax I wish you would collect it, it is for provision sold Capt. G. while I was Acting Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, if he pays it let me know it immediately, dont put yourself to any trouble about it for Capt. Ward will pay it if you dont see Dr Broadnax Times are quiet here at present but the armies will begin to maneuver again in a few weeks. I have been on court martial two weeks which has excused me from other duty. The weather is very bad we had the hardest hail storm last Sunday I ever saw, but it has nearly all melted away. There has not been a single fair day during this month I wrote to Sister Virginia yesterday I suppose you will see the letter, so if I have forgotten to mention anything here you will see it there.

Give my love to Sister Kate. Let one hear from you soon. May your lives be long and happy and may your path be smooth and unobstructed by by those that would injure you or disturb your quietude is the prayer of your brother

W.M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
March <sup>the</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Mip. (Miss) Virginia A. Nunnally  
Dear Sister

I believe I will write to pap (pass) off the balance of this dull day, not that I hope to interest you or have any news to relate. This month as usual has brought us plenty of rain and snow There has been decidedly the coldest march I ever felt. Things continue quiet here at present, but I fear it will not remain so long, for as soon as the weather gets good the Yanks will begin to move some way soon, in May 300 000 of their men will go out of service and I feel confident they will get another fight out of them before the time comes for them to be mustered out of service.

All talk of peace has been pushed up and all hands seem to think that we have got to fight through the coming summer and fall and have made up their minds to do their duty to the utmost extent. I hardly think there will be as much fighting in Virginia as was last year but there will be more in the west. The campaign in Virginia last year was the hardest that the world ever witneped (witnessed). Furloughs has been stoped which goes to show that the generals think there will be need for all hands soon. I will send you a quire of paper like this sheet the first opportunity

My health has been excellent ever since we came to this place and I feel like I will be able to stand another summer in the army. It has been nine months since I left home. The time looks short to me. Thought I have been through many hardships since then and have witneped (witnessed) some of the bloodiest battles of the war at this time last year we were at Burs Church looking for an attack at that point. The weather was fine and warm as June. Then this regiment numbered nearly one thousand, now it has not quite five hundred, a sad tale would be the history of those that are miping (missing), many of them lay where they fell on the battle field with their bones bleeching and left as marks of the fight for future generations to look at, disease has its full share of them and many are at home and every step they make tells the crowd that they have had a blow from the foe. Those that are left look as cheerful now as if nothing had happened, but a close observer can see that a change has come over many of them. Then they could not speak without an oath but the sight of seeing so many fall or the hear that they too may fall soon has put a stop to a great extent of this evil practice and instead of men getting worse and believe they have improved much.

I have been listening to hear of a fight at Charleston and Vicksburg but it has not come off yet but will no doubt soon

Let me hear from you soon, give my love to all the family and inquiring friends I have nothing more to tell you, farewell.

W.M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
April 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Brother

I write to inform you that I am well. I received your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ a few days since. I intended answering it immediately, but have had but little spare time and no news worth writing. I think we will have active operations soon. Though I cant tell what will be done yet. The Yankees may attempt to crop (cross) the river again, though they may not. Then I believe we will advance on them and attack their camps acrop (across) the river. We had a rainy day yesterday which will prevent any moving for several days yet.

I sent a bundle of papers to sister Virginia a few days ago. I directed them to Stacyville care of Mr. Fitzgerald I wish you would let me know if she got it, it contains duplicate Commissary returns which I want to keep and some letter paper for herself. I wish you would have blades put in a knife that I have in my box at home, the one that has tweezers, pick and one saw blade in it. I cant buy one here for less (less) than ten dollars here. I have not received a letter from home in four weeks and have not heard from there in that time only through your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> March. I shall continue to look for a letter until we get on the March. I sent paper and envelops in the last two letters I wrote them and think they ought to write at least once in two weeks if not oftener. I have just come off of skirmish drill and am so tired and nervous that I cant hold my pen steady enough to write a plain hand. I hope when this reaches you that you and sister Kate will have entirely recovered your health.

Give my love to all relatives and friends let me hear from you soon until then farewell

W.M. Nunnally

P.S.

Thos \_\_\_\_\_ JWS & H.L.G. G.W. Anderson and Mathew Sparks are all well.

*(inverted script)*

Tell Sister Virginia in  
her next letter to let me  
know how much money  
I have at home I  
Have \$200.00 That I will  
send the first safe  
opportunity.      W.M.N.

Camp Gregg Va  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 1863

I am quite well. No news of importance every thing  
quiet. The last three days has been delightful weather. I  
have not heard from you in three weeks write soon I will  
write to James in a few days

Good bye.      Wm M Nunnally

Guined Station  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 1863  
11 Oclock AM

The Yankees are cropping (crossing) the river at or  
below Fredericksburg. They have been fighting since two  
oclock last night. I have started to the regiment at  
Gordonville but have just got an order from Gen Pender not  
to go, he has sent after the regiment to come back  
immediately, it will be two or three days before they can get  
here. I learn that ten thousand of the enemy are already  
acrop (across) you may listen for not worry. Good bye

W.M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg VA,  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

Your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> just came to hand a few days  
ago, it is the first one I have had from you in several weeks,  
and I have failed to write on that account. I thought if I  
retaliated that you would be more prudent in the future. I

had not heard that the mail had stopt. I hope that is may not be the case again. My health continues to be good. I think I am heavier now than I ever was before. Though I have not been living very high during the winter and spring though we manage to get plenty such as it is. I am glad to hear the M.C. Holderby made such a profitable trip with his tobacco and hope that good luck will be in his future. I am fully aware that many young men have grown suddenly rich since the announcement of the war and off of the necessities of the country which they ought to hold sacred but they have shown by their cowardly absence from the army that they are destitute of shame, and are devoid of the courage that ought to be in the hearts of men and are not worthy of the country they inhabit. I think they must be descendants of the Tories(?) of the revolution of 76. Certainly they are unworthy of any better parentage. I intend this only for single men, I have no news worth relating. I think from recent orders that we will have to march soon. All the extra bagage has been sent to Richmond leaving us barely enough to keep us from freezing. The privates are allowed one blanket and overcoat but many have only one blanket and no overcoat but they have learned to do with very little and will be able to tough out another summer if they escape bullets. The Yankees have the balloon up every day and take a look at our camps. Some think they will try to crop (cross) the river again but from what I can learn I think they will try the peninsula again and try to force our left flank which they suppose will be on the upper Chickahorning or Pamunky but we will be ready I hope for any rout they may chose. It looks hard for us to have to whip them again to satisfy then that they can't get to Richmond so long as this army is before them to oppose every step. Robt. Collins is as home on furlough from our company her will pap (pass) Stacyville on his return the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of May I told him to stop at R Fitzgeralds and bring anything that might be there for me if you will have my shirt made and sent these by that time he will bring it. I believe that is all the clothing I want at present. Send me a spool of course cotton or a skin of hemp thread, a cake or soap and a coarse towel. I think I have some cotton towels that will answer in my box. I can't carry

many things this summer like I did last.

This is Sunday, we have just got through with prayer meeting. We have no chaplain, but the meeting is conducted by members of the church in the regiment. I imagine that S. Chirlip is at Union today or else she is terribly beset on being disappointed in her trip to that place and has promised to take dinner and spend the evening with Mip (Miss) Pup (Puss?) Lanier, and James is upstairs asleep (no he is married, and has a wife to awake him I forgot that) This is a lovely day, we have had but few such this spring. I hope this spring will not be so rainy as last. Though I believe most of the troops wants the weather to be Bad. So we cant fight at least they say so.

I hope you will tell me all the neighborhood news and what the people are doing (??). The peach trees are almost ready to blossom in this neighborhood. Let me know if you got the bundle I sent by Mr. Chauco. With hopes (?) and my duplicate returns All your acquaintances in the company are quite well. Let me hear from you soon. Give my love to all the family and relatives, good bye;

W.M. Nunnally

Excuse blots I turned over my ink

Notes from the transcriber:

The Pamunkey River (correct spelling) is about 25 miles east of Richmond, Virginia.

The Chickahominy River (correct spelling) is 30-35 miles south east of Richmond (about 10 miles south of The Pamunkey).

Camp Gregg  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

I write to inform you that I am well and have moved, our regiment, to Gordonville we left here last Thursday morning and arrived at camp near Gordonville Sunday morning which is sixty five miles from this place. I came back yesterday to bring a dispatch to Gen. Pender from Col Scales I will return in the morning we are off to ourselves once more at least fifty miles from the army and in a

beautiful country at the foot of the mountain where we will remain I hope until the Yankees advance we are there on picket and will have a good time until the fighting commences. The two first days march. The weather was cold and raining all the while and we suffered much we paped (passed) through a country where there had been no troops before since the war. Men, women children both white and black thronged the road side to see us pap (pass) occasionally our brap (brass) band would give them Dixie or some other piece and they seemed charm ed with its harmonious notes. I go to the regiment by Rail Road. I take the train to Hanover Junction and then to Gordonville. You must send or direct your letters as heretofore Gen Pender will send them to us. write soon and give me all the news Give my love to the family excuse bad writing

WM Nunnally

Camp Gregg  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

I write to inform you that I am well. I wrote to you a few days since but I will write again as I know you like to hear from here often. Last night the picket on the river was doubled. I suppose they thought the Yankees were preparing to crop (cross) last night but I hear nothing from it this morning and suppose it was all a mistake I expect though they will be over to see us before many days. I see one thing has leaked out that occurred at the battle of Chancellorsville that I never intended to mention but the newspapers has got it and I had as well tell it myself. Immediately after the hard fighting was over the Yankees set the woods on fire and the blaze soon spread so that it could not be stoped by a few and the majority of us were too tired to help and there was no effort made to stop it. The woods was strewn with the dead and wounded on both sides and they were burnt to a crisp except our wounded who we took away before the fire got the them, but all the wounded Yankees that was not able to move out of the way was burnt to death, and the dead had all their clothes burnt off and

some of them was almost burnt entirely up. I saw this myself and know it to be true, also a large brick house with about five hundred wounded Yankees in it was set on fire by accident and all perished together. I send you a scrap of paper with a more particular account of the affair. I must say it was the most horrible affair that I ever witneped (witnessed). I was about five hundred yards from the house when it was burnt, in a storm of bullets, Grape shot and shells. if I could see you I could tell you of many things that would make you blood run cold. I send you some scraps of silk, verses and flowers I took out of the testament I got. Tell Gen Anderson to be sure and bring Edwell back with him. We are near the same camp that we occupied all the winter. The mail boy for the brigade was caught the other day breaking open letters. This is the reason that many letters have failed to reach us he is being properly dealt with. write soon I want to hear all the news. My love to all. Your brother

W. M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
May the 20<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

As we start Bill Edwell home in the morning I well send you a line or two to let you know how I am \_\_ I was quite sick yesterday and last night but am better today. I had a chill in the day and fever at night and thought that I was taking typhoid fever but I hope now that I will be entirely well in a few days I will add a line in the morning to let you know how I am getting. Yesterday was the first time that I ever had a chill, it made me feel miserable all day, I thought at the time that I had never felt so badly in my life. I have been threatened with a spell of sicknep(sickness) ever since the battle of chancellorsville but I hope that I may escape an attack this spring.

Everything has assumed the same old quietnep (quietness) as before the fight. I don't know how long it will continue so but fear that it will not be so long. All eyes are turned toward Vicksburg I hope to hear a good report from there

soon Lieut. Gen Pemberton who commands over forces there was over Brigadiers when we first came out. I send my overcoat and \$100, one hundred dollars by Bill tell Ma, to put it with my other money I send some other things in my coat pocket and a pair of pants that I got off the battlefield.

Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup>

I am still improving and thing I will be able for duty tomorrow. I want you to send me a tooth brush by Bill. Send the one that has stiff hair as it is the best one. I fear I would loose my overcoat is the reason I sent it home. The Vice, Screw Driver and Wipers belonged to a Yanky that was killed at Chancellorsville. So did the pants, so you see I fall heir to mens goods that are not relatives. Bill will tell you the balance I will write again soon \_\_\_\_:

WM Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
May 22/63

Dear Sister

I wrote to you yesterday by Bill Edwell. I failed to write as much as I intended on account of feeling unwell but I am much better to day and able for duty. I have fallen off until I am as lean as a borrowed horse. I want you to send me a handkerchief, if I am not mistaken I have two dove collored ones that I used as neck-ties, you will send the best one of them I sent my boots by Edward. Tell James to have them thoroughly repaired, he will have new bottoms put on them as the old leather seems entirely rotten. The pants I sent was taken off of a Yankee Captain that was killed by our regiment. Lt Andrews of co. V pulled them off and I put them on and wore them until I could get to the wagons where my others were as I had torn the pair I had very badly.

*(the following two lines are written upside down on the original letter, as one would have added after the letter was folded)*

I sent a hundred dollars by Bill put it with my other money  
You will see where the ball paped (passed) through my  
overcoat, it came very near jerking me down. I learn that the  
45<sup>th</sup> regt. is on its way from N.C. to join this army. I don't  
look for much more fighting if they come here. I think it is  
the best sign I have seen, tat Hooker will not advance. I  
heard this morning that Lt. Anderson was at Lawsonville. I  
had heard that he had gone to Charleston S.C. or I would  
have sent his clothes home by Edwell. I want you to send  
me some dried peaches and apples by Edwell. don't send  
anything that will spoil for it may be several days before we  
can get it after he gets here. I have nothing more worth  
writing at present. Give my love to all the family.

W. M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
May 27<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

You letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> just is to hand. I have but little  
to write in reply. Mc. Collins left the things you sent with Lt.  
Anderson who was in Richmond sick at the time. I don't  
know what Anderson did with them but suppose I will git  
them soon. I have not heard from Capt. Bailey but can  
excuse him for not writing as he cant use his right hand The  
clothes I started home by Bill Edwell he left at Guinea  
Station and I brought them back to camp yesterday and will  
send them by the first paping (passing). The 43th Regt. is  
encamped near us. Lt. Col. Saml. Boyd was here to see us  
yesterday they are in D. H. Hills old Division. I believe it is  
commanded now by Gen Rodes of Ala Galaways Cavalry is  
near Orange C.H. So all the companies from Rockingham are  
in Lee's army where they will be sure to get a peep at the  
Yankees and hear the whistle of hostile shot and shell.

Since I wrote last I have been to Orange C.H. which is about  
one hundred miles by R. Road. I was summoned there as  
witnep (witness) in a court martial. I have no news of  
importance everything continues quiet. I fear it will not

remain so long. The army is well supplied with provision. The men get as much flour, bacon and sugar as they can use and sometimes rice and peas. All the men are quite cheerful and say if Hooker comes over they will make him retreat to that same old tune Get out of the wilderness again, but I believe they will fight us longer than they did before if they can get their men to keep together. A yankee colonel that we captured said we come hollowing at them so their men all broke and runn like a flock of sheep and there was no chance to make them stand and fight while we kept such an uproar.

My health is much improved and I feel nearly well once more I hope to hear from you soon. My love to all the family and accept for your self my my best wishes write soon

Your brother  
W.M. Nunnally

Camp Gregg Va  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Sister

You letter of the 24 just is to hand. I was expecting to hear that Bill Edwell lost the money for he commenced playing the rascal as soon as he was out of my sight. I sent him home expreply (expressly) to carry my clothes and some for John Guerrant but he carried them to Guinea Station and left them after he had been told that he could take them free of charge all the way home. He has got my money yet and I want James to get him and send him down here by Gen Anderson and I will make him give it up or ship him acrop (across) the river to the Yankees, I can make him work out the amount if he has spent it. if he gives James the money I don't care about his coming back though I have hired him for the year and he promised faithfully when he left that he would be back in fifteen days. he belongs to me the balance of the year and no one has a right to hire him. He knows that it wont do for him to come here with that lie, if he don't come and I ever see him I will nearly take his life. I wrote to you yesterday and give you all the news. I sent word in one of my former letters what I wanted.

If James is not at home tell Lt Anderson to be sure to bring Edwell back with him there is not a doubt but he has my and Mebanes money. I know no one could get it from him some of the men said as soon as they heard about my clothes that my money was lost also we have got our clothes back to camp and will send them the first safe opportunity. I have received several letters from you recently. I have not got the things you sent by Collins, he left there with Lt. Anderson in Richmond.

Write Soon. This leaves me well. Give my love to all the family

W.M Nunnally

Camp near Culpeper CH Va.  
July the 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Cousin

I received your letter this morning. I am very sory that you have hapened to such a miss fortune as to loose your Dear Brother. It is a great calamity on our company as well as your self for he was quite a good officer and a good man I think he is in a much better world than this so we should not be troubles at it but try to meet him again, you wished to know if I thought his remains could be gotten it would be hard to get as it is in the hands of the enemy but I recon it could be done. There is a man in the company who knows where it is. James Warren (?), he was buryed with out a coffin of course, our Boys had to go on for two or three days before they could attend to any thing I wish we could have put him away in good order but that is impossible in such times as this. You seemed to wish to see Loftis because he saw him last. All of the company saw him after he was killed but Loftis was wounded and went to him and took his belt off which had his money.

Loftis is now at some Hospital I don't know how long it will be before he comes back he has the money with him, I have his sword here his clothes are not here they are off with the rest of the baggage I recon they will come up soon, I wish you had all of his things at home I think it doubtful about

your getting his Body before the war ends. I hope you may sucseed in getting it, tell your mother that Brother Hugh wrote to her about two weeks ago. I guess she had received it before this time. Tell Pa that I received his letter this morning, I wrote to Neal last Evening Cousin Jennie I wish I could write something to console you but I recon I cannot. All I can say it that he is in my opinion much better off than he was here for Pleasure seems be no more with men in this unholy war. Give my love to your mother and sisters and all my friends

Your affectionate cousin  
J.W. Guerrant

*Note from the transcriber:*

*This letter is in reference to the death of  
W.M. Nunnally.*

In line of battle near Fredericksburg  
June 14/63,

We have been in line of battle ten days waiting for the Yankees who had cropped (crossed) below the town to attack us but they recroped (recrossed) the river last night and we have not had any fight though we have been expecting it every hour, night and day since we came here. Both armies have been in plain view of each others all the time and about nine hundred yards apart but neither side used their artillery. Though we were in range of each others guns but behind breast works.

Your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> just came to hand, I will answer it in a few days. I write in great haste. hope to hear from you again soon I had a letter written to you the night we came here but burnt it for fear of loosing it. I learn that Gen Lee is near Culpepper C.H. with a portion of the army. I expect we will join him soon. Though I cant tell what will be done. I am glad to say that our army reminds me of an immense

camp meeting. We have preaching and prayer meetings every day. Many are converted and baptized and join the church. I will tell you more about it in my next. This is all the paper I have here. All of your acquaintances are well. My love to all. Farewell.

Wm. M. Nunnally

In camp near Winchester Va  
4 Oclock P.M. June 21<sup>st</sup> /63

Dear Sister

I write to inform you that I am well. We have just halted in a large clover field for the night. We have been marching ever since light this morning. we camped on the top of the blue ridge last night which lies like a cloud fifteen miles in our rear, we have crossed (crossed) both prongs of the Shenandoah River to day and are once more in the beautiful valley of which I have told you of before I guep (guess) we will go to Snickers Gap tomorrow where we had a skirmish last fall or we may keep on to the Potomac. I learn that a portion of our forces has already crossed (crossed) over into Maryland and are probably in Pennsylvania by this time. I suppose you have seen an account of the great victory gained by Lt. Gen. Ewell at Winchester it was a complete succep (success), he took all of them prisoners about 6000 in number I learn that Hooker has taken away all his army to Washington Cty. And no doubt will try and meet us in Maryland or Penn. Our army is much larger than it was at the battle of Chancellorsville and a third larger than it was when we invaded MD last year and would fill the road while marching from Danville to Wentworth and then the wagons take equally as much room and when the whole army moves at the same time they fill an ordinary road for seventy miles and probably an hundred.

I wrote to you a few days ago. Stating that the enemy had recroped (recrossed) then Rhoppohannock. They all left their old camp oposite Fredericksburg the next night a portion of our regiment croped (crossed) over and took 32 prisoners

that was left at a house, wounded. We have been on the march six days. I got over heated the second day and felt very badly for several hours and could not keep up with the regt but over-took them at night and have been able to keep up ever since. All the Rockingham boys are here in Lee's army and will have a chance to see some active service yet, I don't know where the 40<sup>th</sup> regt is but think it is in this neighborhood. I learn the 14<sup>th</sup> regt is in Md. I don't know what Gen Lee intends doing but am willing to follow wherever he says go and think that he will make the trip pay, but hear we will have hard marching to do it. I have been looking for Lt. Anderson back for several days, if he has not started tell him to be certain to bring us a cook.

Wheler Hancock promised to take my over coat home from Richmond let me know if he did. When you send letters direct them to Richmond 13<sup>th</sup> N.C. Troops Penders division. A.P. Hills Corps. We left Thou Harville at Culpepper C.H. sick. Hugh and John Guerrant are both well. I will write again in a few days. Give my love to all the family and accept the same for yourself. I will write again in a few days. write soon your brother

WM Nunnally

*Notes from the transcriber:*

*Rappahannock (correct spelling) is a river in eastern Virginia*

*"Prongs" of the Shenandoah River are likely referring to the prongs of a fork in the river.*

Camp near Winchester, Va  
15<sup>th</sup> July 1863.

Mrs S.S. Nunnally,

It is my painful duty to inform you that your Son, Lieut W. M. Nunnally was killed in the battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on the 1<sup>st</sup> July he was struck in the temple by a grapeshot the shot went through his head killing him

instantly he was buried on the battlefield. I should have informed you of the fact earlier but we had no means of sending the mail until we crossed the Potomac which was yesterday

Yours most respectfully

H. L. Guerrant

Capt. Co K. 13<sup>th</sup> N.C.

I.

— — Co. "K." 13<sup>th</sup>. N.C.J.  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 1864

Mrs S.S. Nunnally

I received your letter asking me to collect the money that is due William. I have seen our quarter master Caleb Chad D Hill and find that he has William's R\_\_\_\_ up to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1863 showing that he has already received his pay to that date. After inquiring into the matter I find that I cannot collect the money myself, but that the proper person to do it is his executor, administrator or next of kin. So that if he has no executor or administrator, which I do not suppose he has, you yourself being next of kin will be the only person who can collect what is due him. I will therefore give you some information as to how you will have to proceed. In the first place you will have to go before some magistrate of your county and make oath that Willams was you son, that he died leaving no wife or children leaving and that you your- self are the only person entitled to claim the money due him for service rendered in the Confederate states army. Secondly you will have to get a disinterested person to make oath that the above facts you yourself have sworn to are true. Thirdly you will have to get the certificate and county seal of your county court clerk certifying that the magistrate before whom you and this disinterested person make oath, is a lawful and acting magistrate at the time the oaths are made. Lastly the magistrate before whom the affidavid are made, must certify under his hand and seal that this disinterested person is a person of good character and that (his or her) statements may be relied upon. After you have done all this you can go in person to the second

auditors office Richmond Va and apply for the final statements or descriptive list in the case of Lieut Wm W Nunnally Co "K" 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment N.C. Troops which I have already filed in that office.

and present them together with the affidavits certificate \_ \_ which you will carry with you.

then the money will at once be paid.

Should you not desire to go to Richmond in person, you can make a power of attorney to whom you please and your attorney can carry the affidavits certificate \_ \_ and collect the money.

The final statements which I have filed as ~~above~~ stated in the second auditors office will show that he has been paid to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May 1863 ~~lusive~~ leaving the sum of ninety (90) dollars due him which is one months pay to the date of his death. Your Friend

H.L. Guerrant  
Capt. Co. "K." 13<sup>th</sup> N.C.T.

Camp Near Orange C.H. Va  
Augt the 14<sup>th</sup> 1,,63

Dear Father

as capt Danson is going to start home tomorrow I will write you a few lines we all are well, at least as well as usual. We have been in this camp about two days and have no orders to leave yet but don't know how long it will be before will have them I shal send you \$174,,00 in confederate money \$2,,00 in state money and \$3,,10 in \_ \_ to hand to Mrs Nunnally which was taken our of Lt W.M. Nunnallys pocket at Gettysburg by T. Loftin (?). he owed H N Harison \$6,,00 which I will hand to him. I will also send his sword his clothes are at Gordonsville in the reserve wagons. I wish his mother had them all. Thomas Harville is quite well. Jorge Anderson saw Alfred a few days ago he was well. I have received the appointment of commissary sergeant. I get \$31,,00 a month and have plenty to do but not too much for war times I recon as we should not look for easy places in such times at these. Genl Scales has got back the brigade is well pleased with him Hyman is our Col Rogers Lt Col and

Withers Major. We have but few officers in the Regiment. The troops are a little dissatisfied but I hope it will soon banish. I would like so much to see you all. When will it be that I can see you perhaps never after so long wishing to see you. but I look for help from the power of man as well as the strong help of God to be with us and that before a great while. I think F\_\_\_\_ will be with us before long. You ~~must~~ write to me soon tell \_\_\_\_ to write often give my love to all your son

J.W. Guerrant

Camp Near Orange C.H. VA  
Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 1863,

Mrs Susan Nunnally  
Esteemed Friend

Your letter of inquiry is to hand I hasten to reply. In answer I will say that I have taken spesial care of all of his effects ever since I returned to camp. I never have had but one opportunity of sending them home and then the wagon that hauled our baggag was in the rear nine miles. \_\_\_\_\_ private of our company that I had discharged Shortly after I came back would haved carried all of his things home if they had been here at the time he left but there was nothing here but his coat you spoke of receiving. John Guerrant sent that and his money that was taken out of his pocket on the battle field by one of our boys. He sent the money and his sword by Capt T. T. Lawson, he sent the coat and one blanket by Garrett. I forget the exact amount of money, but it was \$1,70 in confederate notes, a few dollars bank notes, and a few dollars in Sp\_\_\_\_ I hope you have got it before this if you have not got them call on Capt Lawson he will deliver them over to you.

Mrs Nunnally, I would have writen to you long before now but I thought it would only make the matter worse Capt Guerrant wrote to you immediately after his death giving you all the particulars. I thought it was useless for me to write anything therefore I remained nutral, all that I could write would add nothing in comparrison to the already long

biographical sketches that have been published in several papers of our own state and one or two in Virginia though this I will add He was a good man and a brave soldier in the camp and on the battlefield, never shrinking from the discharges of his duty or from danger, His character was marked by mildness and dignity of maner united with inflexible firmness and courage of purpose. But it was in the domestic circle that his qualities shone brightest, marking him the stay and delight of the circle of brothers and sisters who now mourn him with inconsolable greif. His end was sudden, for he was killed by a grape shot instantly while nobely discharging his duty.

While his friends are thus deprived of the testimony (which this consistent life renders unnecessary) to his preparation for eternity, they have the solace of believing that pasage to a better world was painless, thus has another man been added to the gallant dead who have given their blood for us. Me dead friend you have the sympathy of our entire company, they loved him like a brother and I feel as if my best friend on earth has departed but I will try and console myself for our loos is his eternal gain, he has gone to rest, when there is no wars no pain nor death felt or feared any more all that I could say as I have already said would nothing.

So rest assurd that his things shall be taken care of I will send them to you the first opportunity. My love to the family

Very Respectfully  
Your Friend  
G.W. Anderson

P.S. Enclosed

I send you a biography of his death writen  
by Capt. Guerrant

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